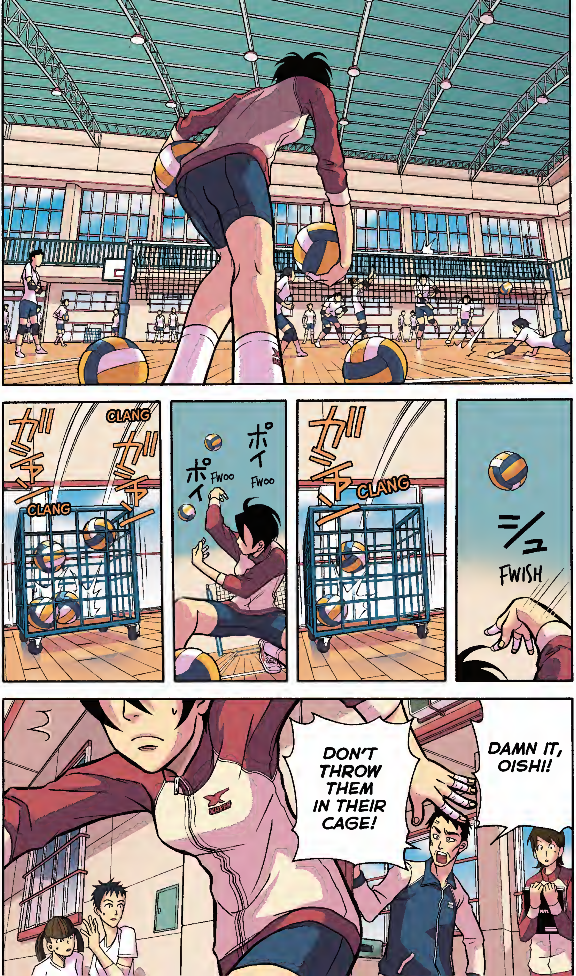
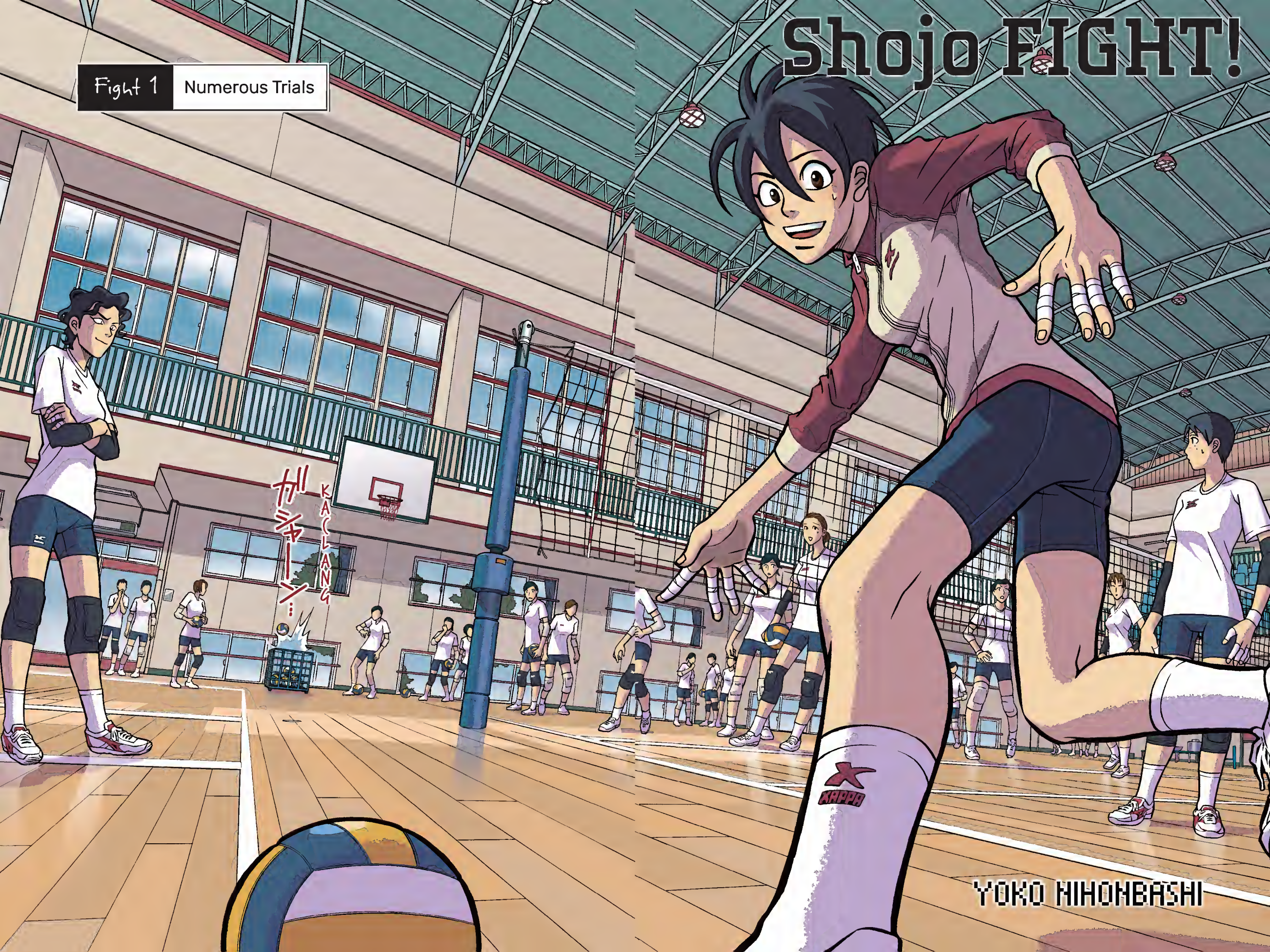
# Shojo FIGHT!

## 1

YOKO NIHONBASHI


シュ
FWISH
ガシャン
CLANG
ポイ
Fwoo
ポイ
Fwoo
ガシャン
CLANG
ガシャン
CLANG
DAMN IT, OISHI!
DON'T THROW THEM IN THEIR CAGE!

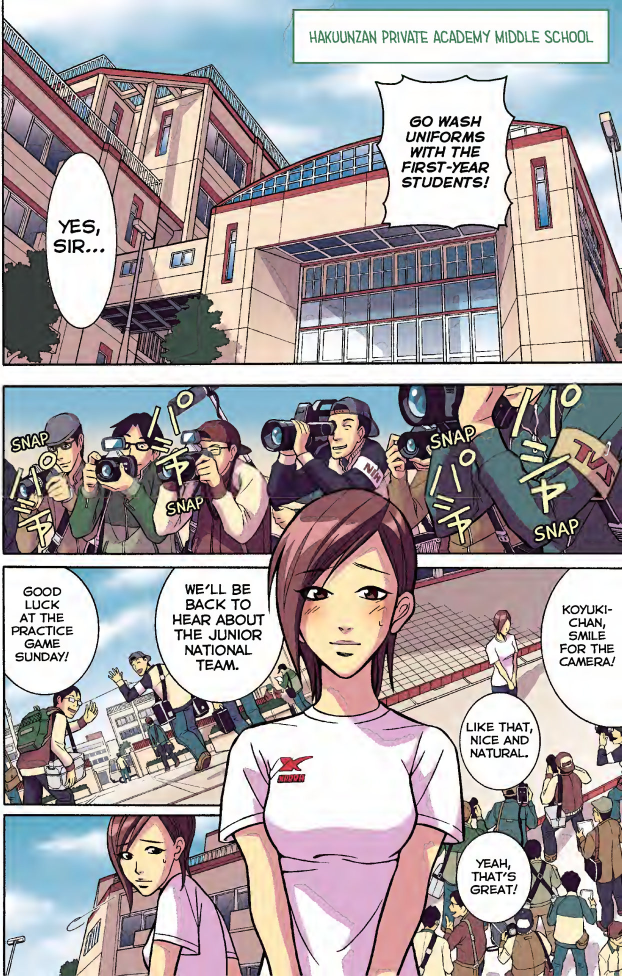


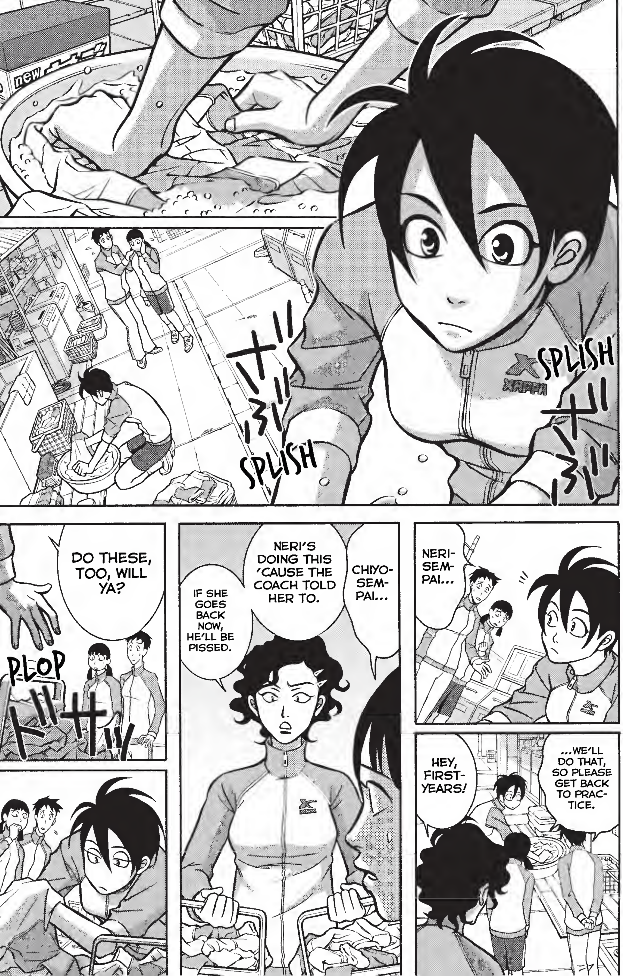
# Shojo FIGHT!

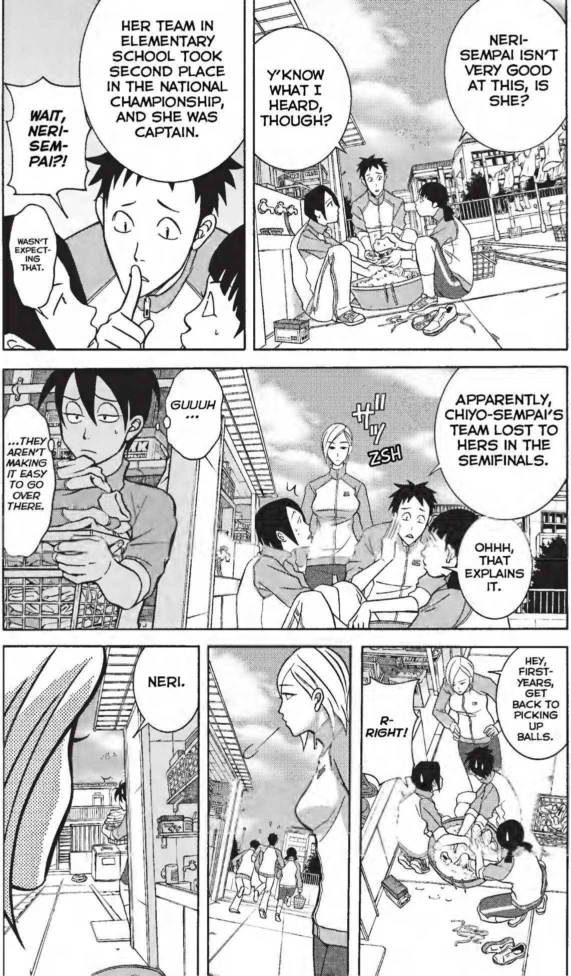
## Fight 1 Numerous Trials

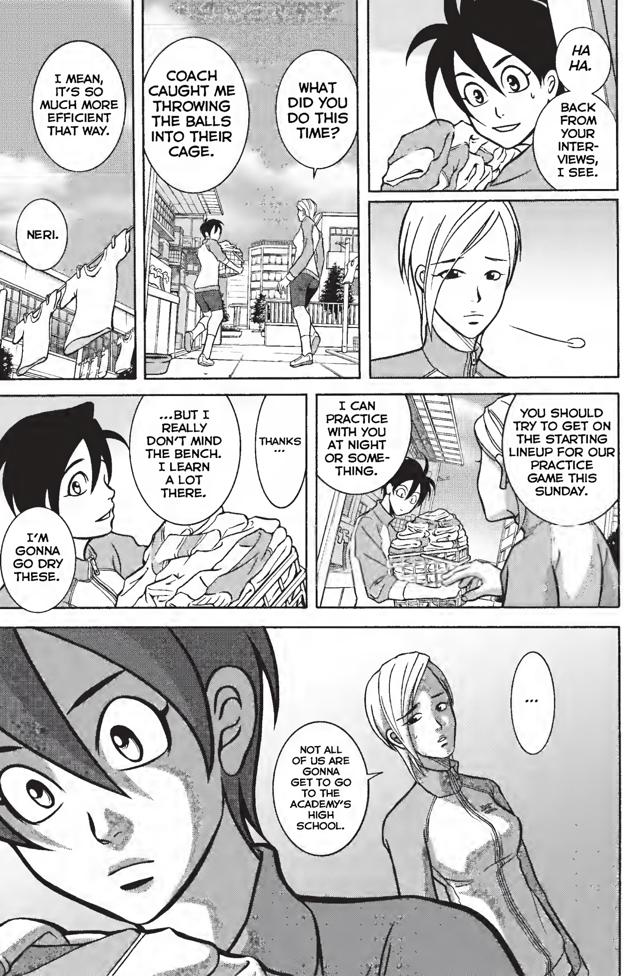
YOKO NIHONBASHI

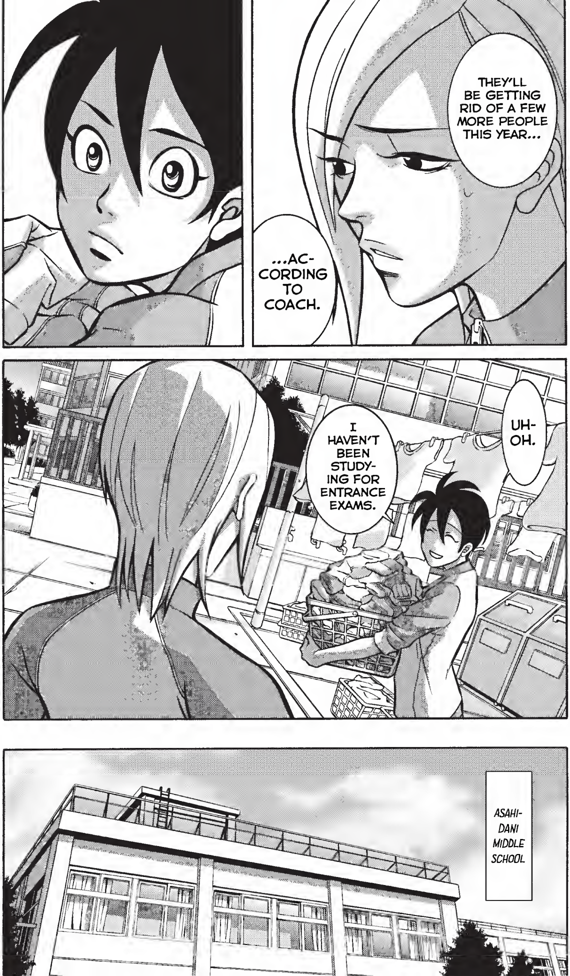
ガシャーン…
KACLANG
KAPPA

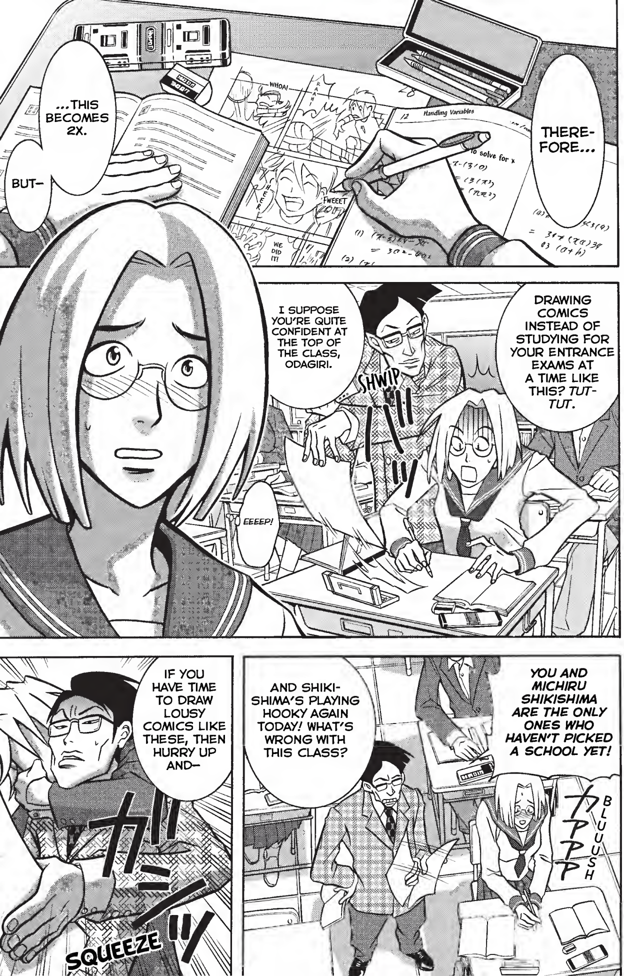

HAKUUNZAN PRIVATE ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL
GO WASH UNIFORMS WITH THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS!
YES, SIR...
パシャ
SNAP
SNAP
パシャ
SNAP
パシャ
SNAP
パシャ
SNAP
KOYUKI-CHAN, SMILE FOR THE CAMERA!
LIKE THAT, NICE AND NATURAL.
YEAH, THAT'S GREAT!
WE'LL BE BACK TO HEAR ABOUT THE JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM.
GOOD LUCK AT THE PRACTICE GAME SUNDAY!

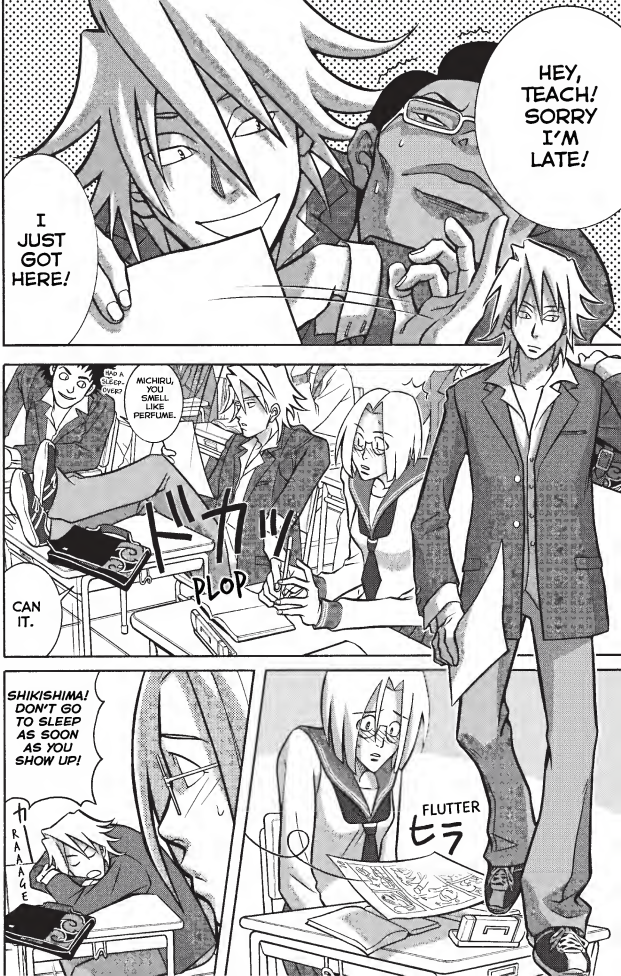

new
ザブ
SPLISH
ザブ
SPLISH
NERI-SEMPAI...
CHIYO-SEMPAI...
NERI'S DOING THIS 'CAUSE THE COACH TOLD HER TO.
IF SHE GOES BACK NOW, HE'LL BE PISSED.
DO THESE, TOO, WILL YA?
PLOP
ドサッ
...WE'LL DO THAT, SO PLEASE GET BACK TO PRACTICE.
HEY, FIRST-YEARS!

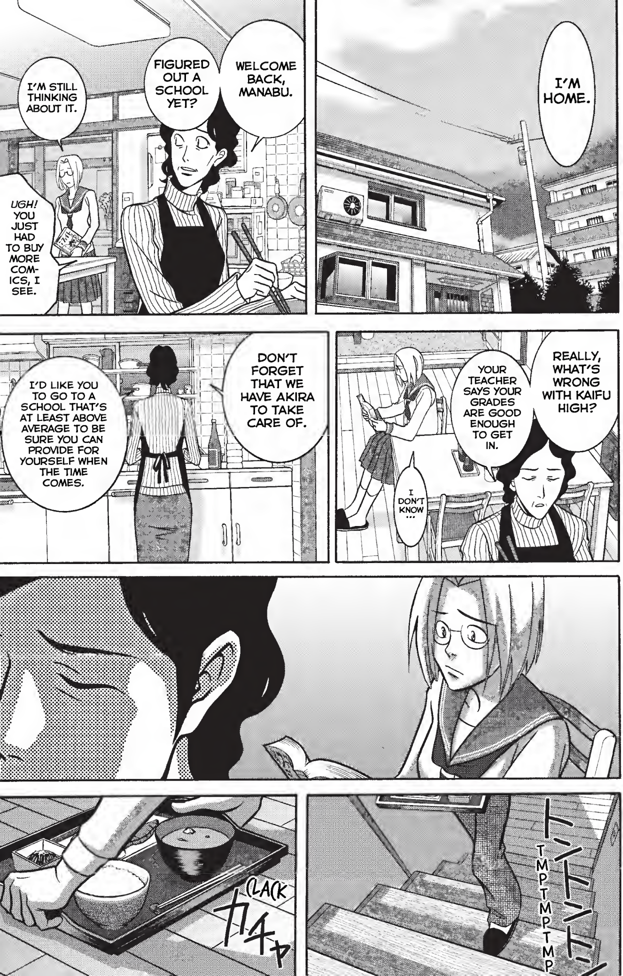

NERI-SEMPAI ISN'T VERY GOOD AT THIS, IS SHE?
Y'KNOW WHAT I HEARD, THOUGH?
HER TEAM IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOOK SECOND PLACE IN THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, AND SHE WAS CAPTAIN.
*WAIT, NERI-SEMPAI?!*
WASN'T EXPECTING THAT.
APPARENTLY, CHIYO-SEMPAI'S TEAM LOST TO HERS IN THE SEMIFINALS.
ZSH
OHHH, THAT EXPLAINS IT.
*GUUUH ...*
*...THEY AREN'T MAKING IT EASY TO GO OVER THERE.*
HEY, FIRST-YEARS, GET BACK TO PICKING UP BALLS.
*R-RIGHT!*
NERI.

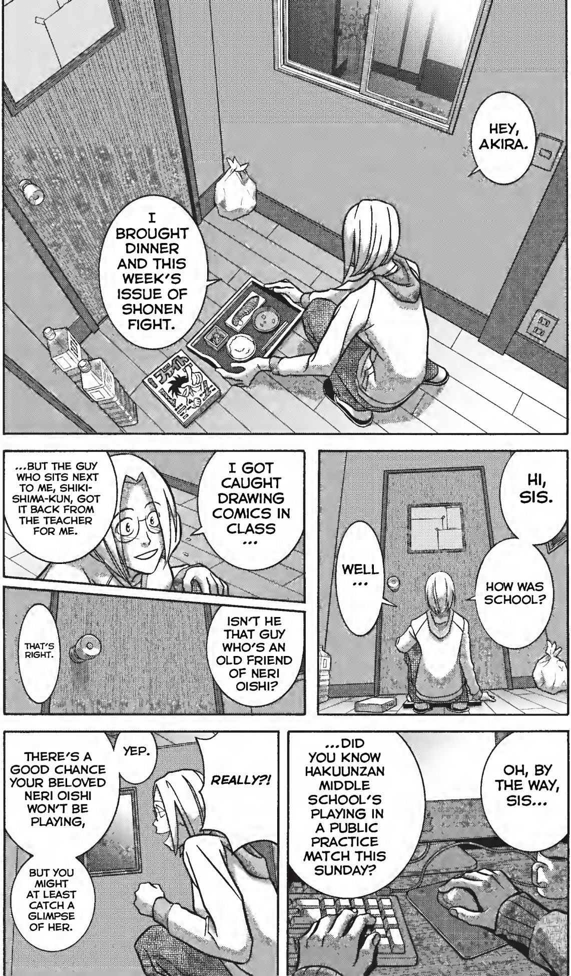

HA HA.
BACK FROM YOUR INTERVIEWS, I SEE.
WHAT DID YOU DO THIS TIME?
COACH CAUGHT ME THROWING THE BALLS INTO THEIR CAGE.
I MEAN, IT'S SO MUCH MORE EFFICIENT THAT WAY.
NERI.
YOU SHOULD TRY TO GET ON THE STARTING LINEUP FOR OUR PRACTICE GAME THIS SUNDAY.
I CAN PRACTICE WITH YOU AT NIGHT OR SOMETHING.
THANKS...
...BUT I REALLY DON'T MIND THE BENCH. I LEARN A LOT THERE.
I'M GONNA GO DRY THESE.
...
NOT ALL OF US ARE GONNA GET TO GO TO THE ACADEMY'S HIGH SCHOOL.

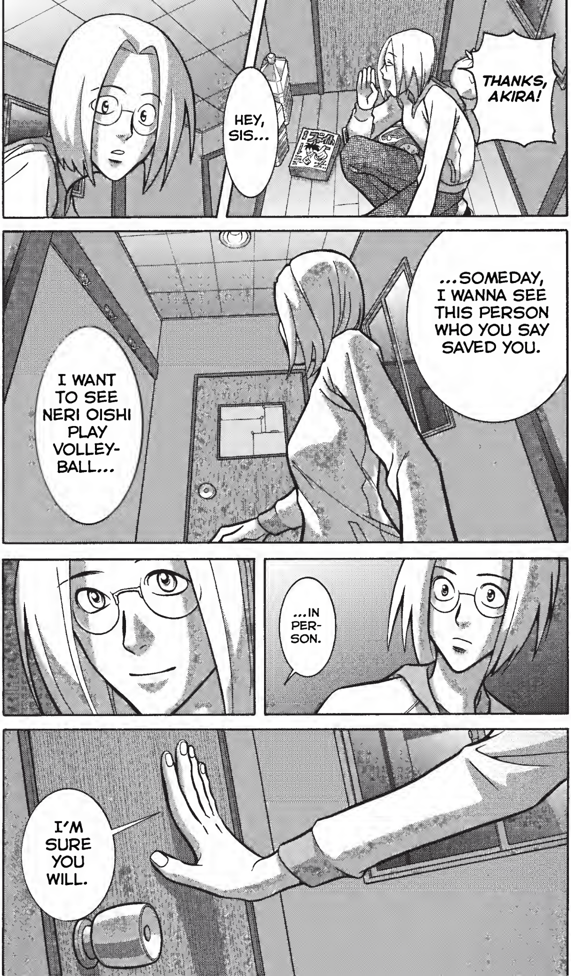

THEY'LL BE GETTING RID OF A FEW MORE PEOPLE THIS YEAR...
...ACCORDING TO COACH.
UH-OH.
I HAVEN'T BEEN STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS.
ASAHIDANI MIDDLE SCHOOL

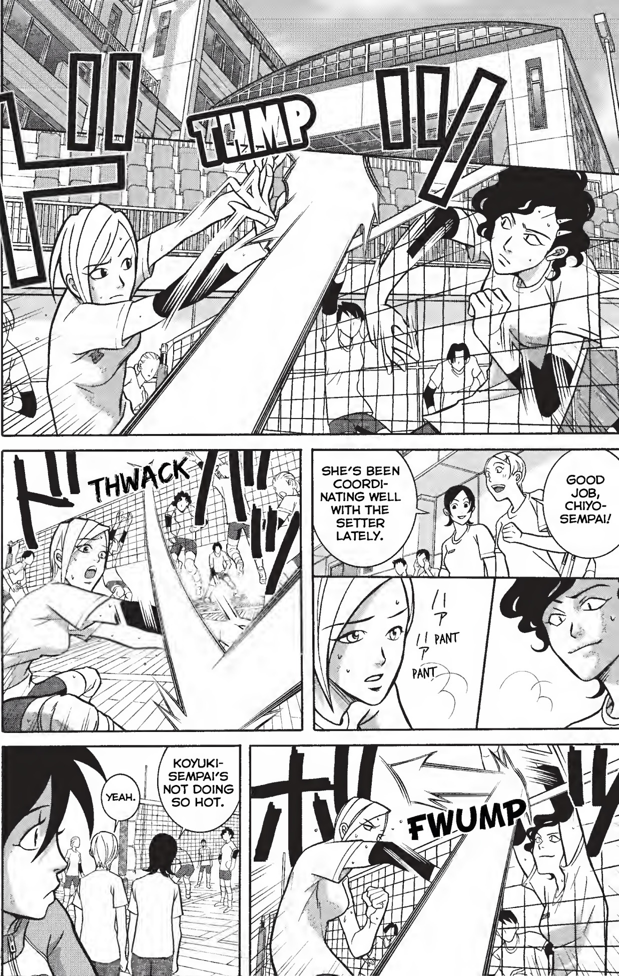

THEREFORE...
...THIS BECOMES 2X.
BUT–
12 Handling Variables
to solve for x
WHOA!
RA!
CHEER
FWEEET
WE DID IT!
DRAWING COMICS INSTEAD OF STUDYING FOR YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS AT A TIME LIKE THIS? *TUT-TUT*.
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE QUITE CONFIDENT AT THE TOP OF THE CLASS, ODAGIRI.
SHWIP
EEEEP!
*YOU AND MICHIRU SHIKISHIMA ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVEN'T PICKED A SCHOOL YET!*
カァァァ
BLUUUSH
AND SHIKISHIMA'S PLAYING HOOKY AGAIN TODAY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS CLASS?
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO DRAW LOUSY COMICS LIKE THESE, THEN HURRY UP AND–
ガシ
SQUEEZE

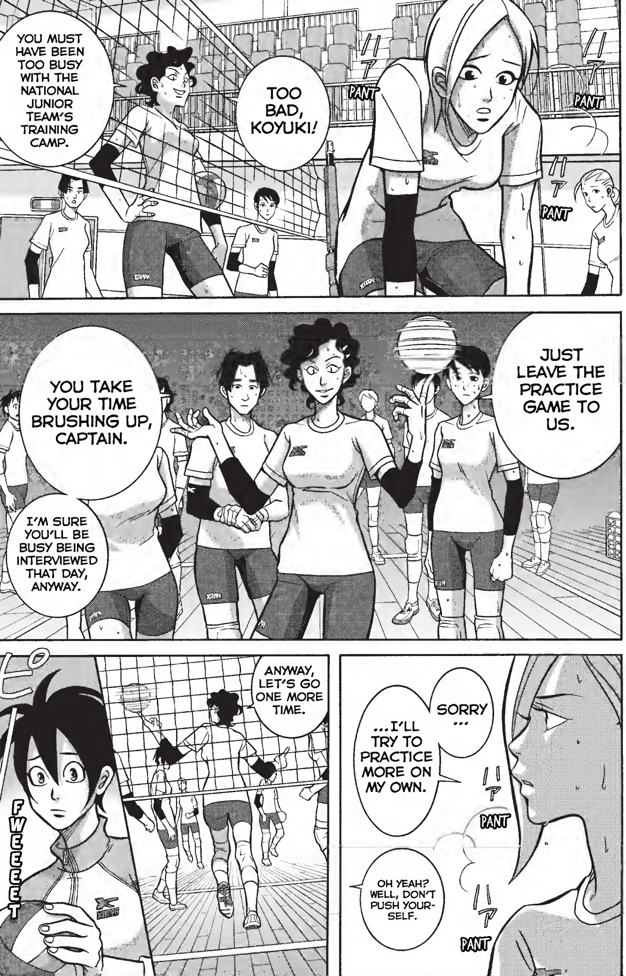

HEY, TEACH! SORRY I'M LATE!
I JUST GOT HERE!
MICHIRU, YOU SMELL LIKE PERFUME.
HAD A SLEEP-OVER?
ドカッ
PLOP
CAN IT.
FLUTTER
ヒラ
SHIKISHIMA! DON'T GO TO SLEEP AS SOON AS YOU SHOW UP!
カ
RAAAGE

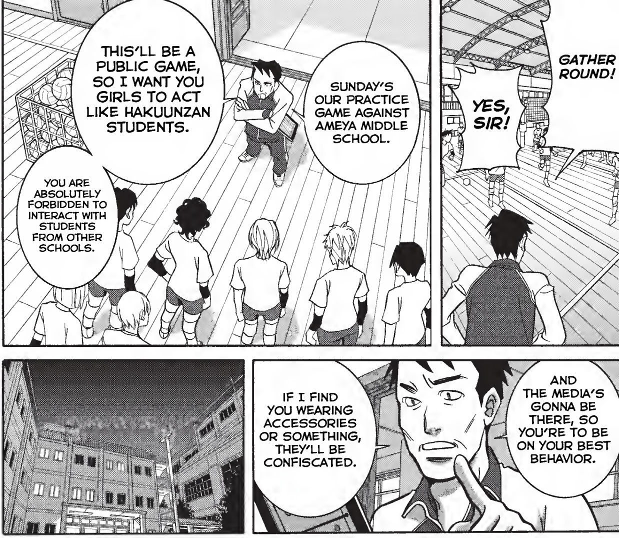

I'M HOME.
WELCOME BACK, MANABU.
FIGURED OUT A SCHOOL YET?
I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT IT.
*UGH!* YOU JUST HAD TO BUY MORE COMICS, I SEE.
REALLY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH KAIFU HIGH?
YOUR TEACHER SAYS YOUR GRADES ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO GET IN.
I DON'T KNOW...
DON'T FORGET THAT WE HAVE AKIRA TO TAKE CARE OF.
I'D LIKE YOU TO GO TO A SCHOOL THAT'S AT LEAST ABOVE AVERAGE TO BE SURE YOU CAN PROVIDE FOR YOURSELF WHEN THE TIME COMES.
トントントン
TMPTMPTMP
カチャ
CLACK


HEY, AKIRA.
I BROUGHT DINNER AND THIS WEEK'S ISSUE OF SHONEN FIGHT.
HI, SIS.
HOW WAS SCHOOL?
WELL...
I GOT CAUGHT DRAWING COMICS IN CLASS...
...BUT THE GUY WHO SITS NEXT TO ME, SHIKISHIMA-KUN, GOT IT BACK FROM THE TEACHER FOR ME.
ISN'T HE THAT GUY WHO'S AN OLD FRIEND OF NERI OISHI?
THAT'S RIGHT.
OH, BY THE WAY, SIS...
...DID YOU KNOW HAKUUNZAN MIDDLE SCHOOL'S PLAYING IN A PUBLIC PRACTICE MATCH THIS SUNDAY?
*REALLY?!*
YEP.
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE YOUR BELOVED NERI OISHI WON'T BE PLAYING,
BUT YOU MIGHT AT LEAST CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HER.

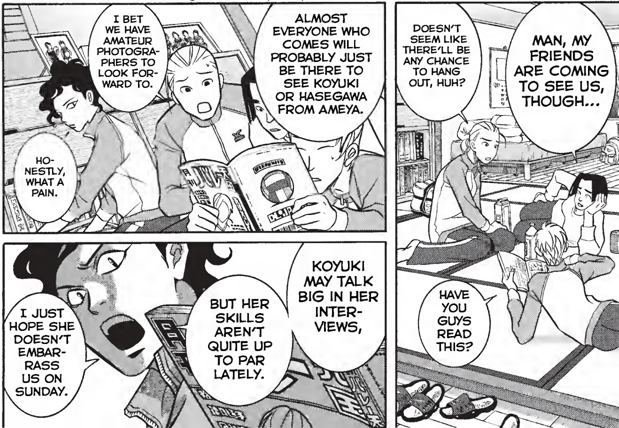

THANKS, AKIRA!
HEY, SIS...
...SOMEDAY, I WANNA SEE THIS PERSON WHO YOU SAY SAVED YOU.
I WANT TO SEE NERI OISHI PLAY VOLLEYBALL...
...IN PERSON.
I'M SURE YOU WILL.

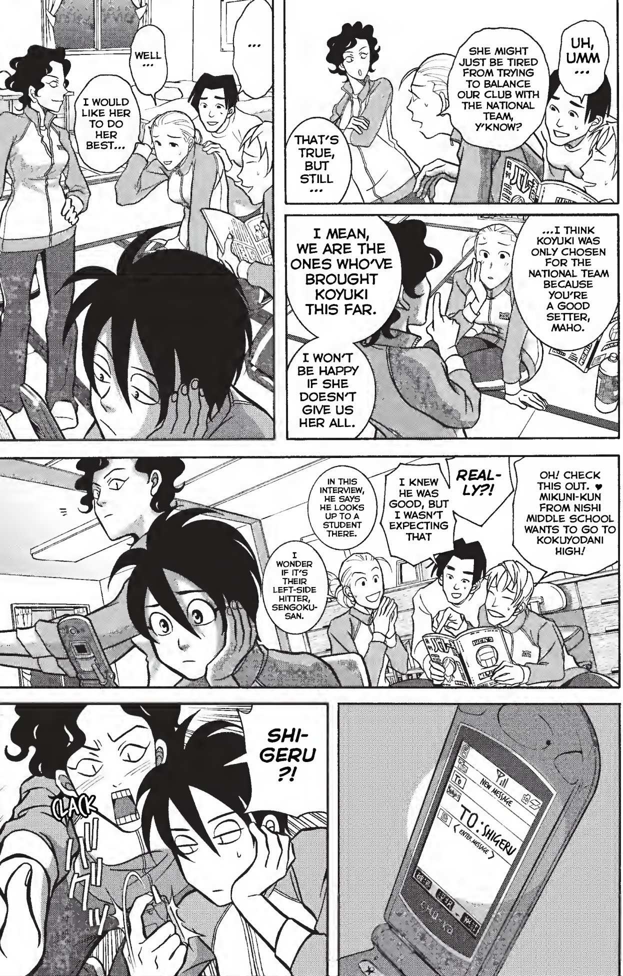

THMP
GOOD JOB, CHIYO-SEMPAI!
SHE'S BEEN COORDINATING WELL WITH THE SETTER LATELY.
ハァ PANT
ハァ PANT
THWACK
FWUMP
KOYUKI-SEMPAI'S NOT DOING SO HOT.
YEAH.

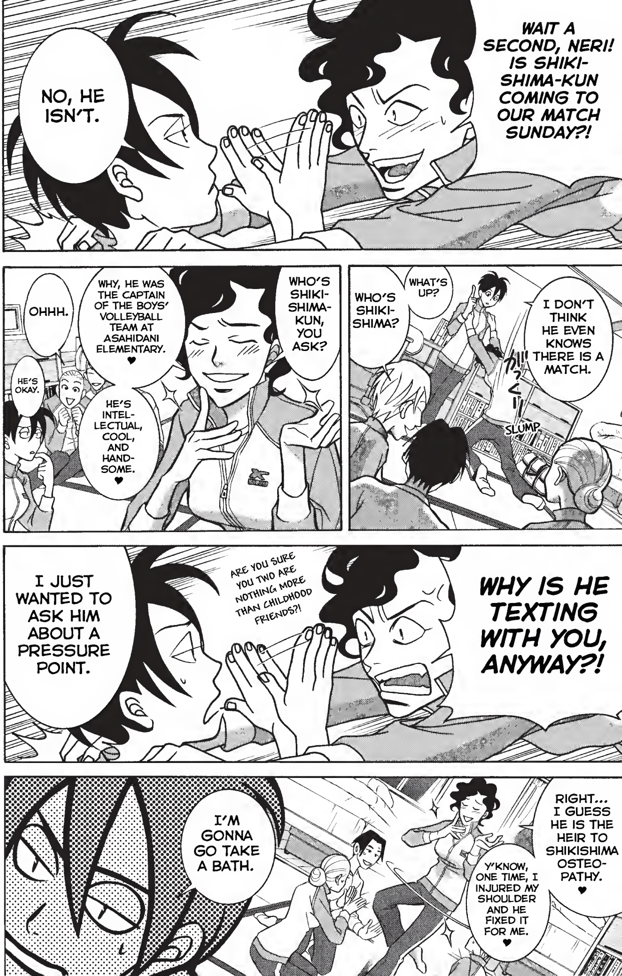

ハア
PANT
ハア
PANT
ハア
PANT
TOO BAD, KOYUKI!
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN TOO BUSY WITH THE NATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM'S TRAINING CAMP.
JUST LEAVE THE PRACTICE GAME TO US.
YOU TAKE YOUR TIME BRUSHING UP, CAPTAIN.
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE BUSY BEING INTERVIEWED THAT DAY, ANYWAY.
SORRY...
...I'LL TRY TO PRACTICE MORE ON MY OWN.
ハア
PANT
OH YEAH? WELL, DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.
ハア
PANT
ANYWAY, LET'S GO ONE MORE TIME.
ピー
FWEEEEET

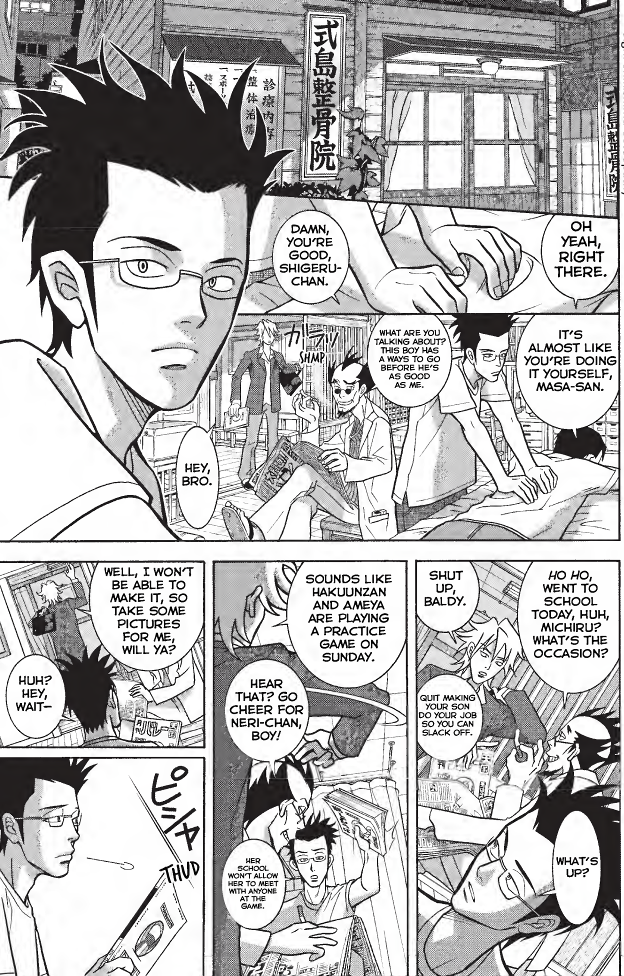

GATHER ROUND!
YES, SIR!
SUNDAY'S OUR PRACTICE GAME AGAINST AMEYA MIDDLE SCHOOL.
THIS'LL BE A PUBLIC GAME, SO I WANT YOU GIRLS TO ACT LIKE HAKUUNZAN STUDENTS.
YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN TO INTERACT WITH STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS.
AND THE MEDIA'S GONNA BE THERE, SO YOU'RE TO BE ON YOUR BEST BEHAVIOR.
IF I FIND YOU WEARING ACCESSORIES OR SOMETHING, THEY'LL BE CONFISCATED.

Magazine: Monthly Volley Heaven

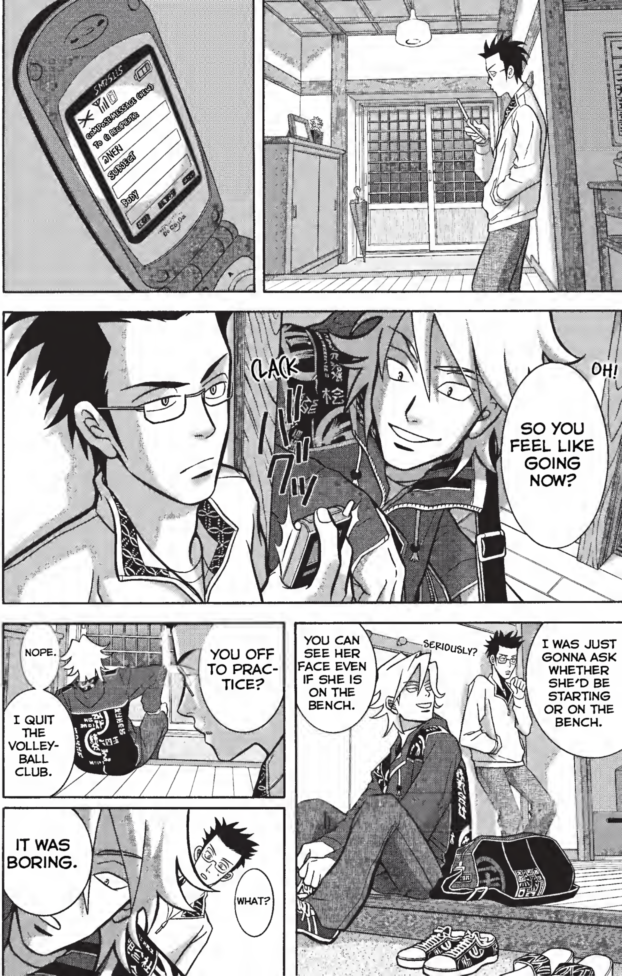

MAN, MY FRIENDS ARE COMING TO SEE US, THOUGH...
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THERE'LL BE ANY CHANCE TO HANG OUT, HUH?
HAVE YOU GUYS READ THIS?
ALMOST EVERYONE WHO COMES WILL PROBABLY JUST BE THERE TO SEE KOYUKI OR HASEGAWA FROM AMEYA.
I BET WE HAVE AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS TO LOOK FORWARD TO.
HONESTLY, WHAT A PAIN.
KOYUKI MAY TALK BIG IN HER INTERVIEWS,
BUT HER SKILLS AREN'T QUITE UP TO PAR LATELY.
I JUST HOPE SHE DOESN'T EMBARRASS US ON SUNDAY.

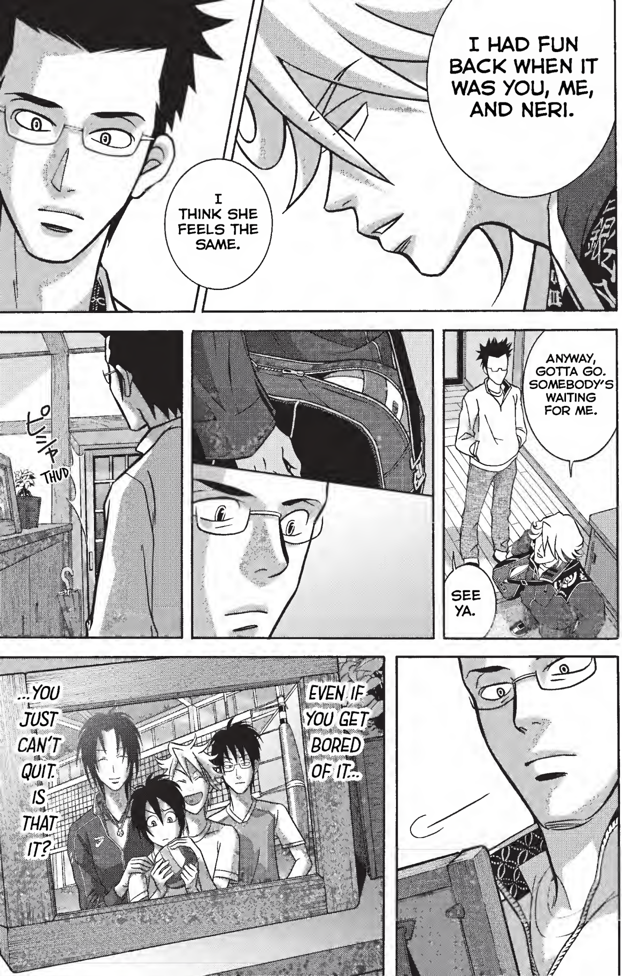

UH, UMM ...
SHE MIGHT JUST BE TIRED FROM TRYING TO BALANCE OUR CLUB WITH THE NATIONAL TEAM, Y'KNOW?
THAT'S TRUE, BUT STILL ...
...I THINK KOYUKI WAS ONLY CHOSEN FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM BECAUSE YOU'RE A GOOD SETTER, MAHO.
I MEAN, WE ARE THE ONES WHO'VE BROUGHT KOYUKI THIS FAR.
I WON'T BE HAPPY IF SHE DOESN'T GIVE US HER ALL.
...
WELL ...
I WOULD LIKE HER TO DO HER BEST...
OH! CHECK THIS OUT. ♥ MIKUNI-KUN FROM NISHI MIDDLE SCHOOL WANTS TO GO TO KOKUYODANI HIGH!
REAL-LY?!
I KNEW HE WAS GOOD, BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING THAT
IN THIS INTERVIEW, HE SAYS HE LOOKS UP TO A STUDENT THERE.
I WONDER IF IT'S THEIR LEFT-SIDE HITTER, SENGOKU-SAN.
NEW MESSAGE
TO
TO: SHIGERU
< ENTER MESSAGE >
CHU-ka
CLACK
SHI-GERU ?!

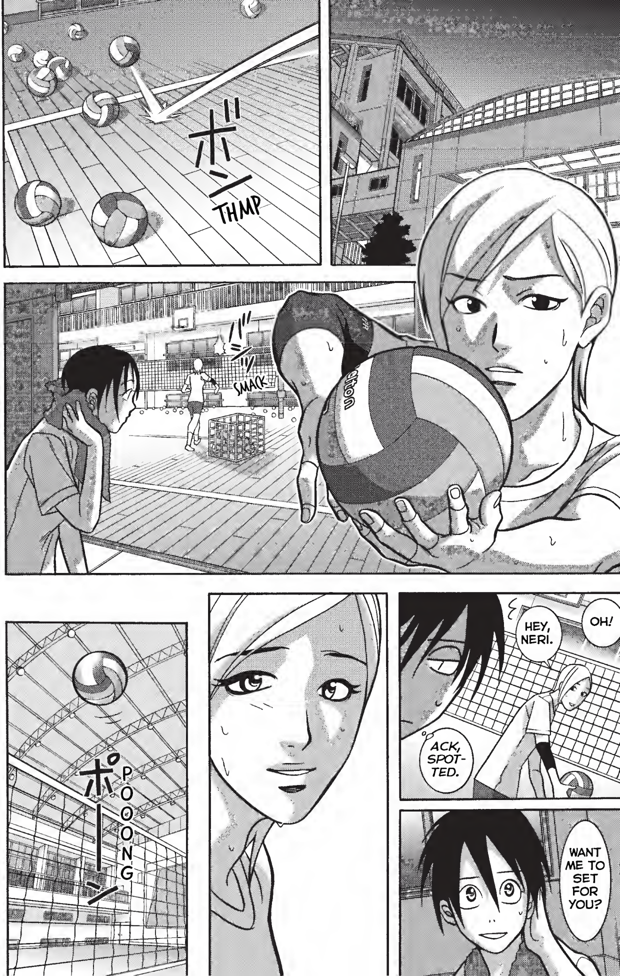

WAIT A SECOND, NERI! IS SHIKISHIMA-KUN COMING TO OUR MATCH SUNDAY?!
NO, HE ISN'T.
I DON'T THINK HE EVEN KNOWS THERE IS A MATCH.
SLUMP
WHAT'S UP?
WHO'S SHIKISHIMA?
WHO'S SHIKISHIMA-KUN, YOU ASK?
WHY, HE WAS THE CAPTAIN OF THE BOYS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM AT ASAHIDANI ELEMENTARY. ♥
HE'S INTELLECTUAL, COOL, AND HANDSOME. ♥
OHHH.
HE'S OKAY.
WHY IS HE TEXTING WITH YOU, ANYWAY?!
ARE YOU SURE YOU TWO ARE NOTHING MORE THAN CHILDHOOD FRIENDS?!
I JUST WANTED TO ASK HIM ABOUT A PRESSURE POINT.
RIGHT... I GUESS HE IS THE HEIR TO SHIKISHIMA OSTEOPATHY. ♥
Y'KNOW, ONE TIME, I INJURED MY SHOULDER AND HE FIXED IT FOR ME. ♥
I'M GONNA GO TAKE A BATH.

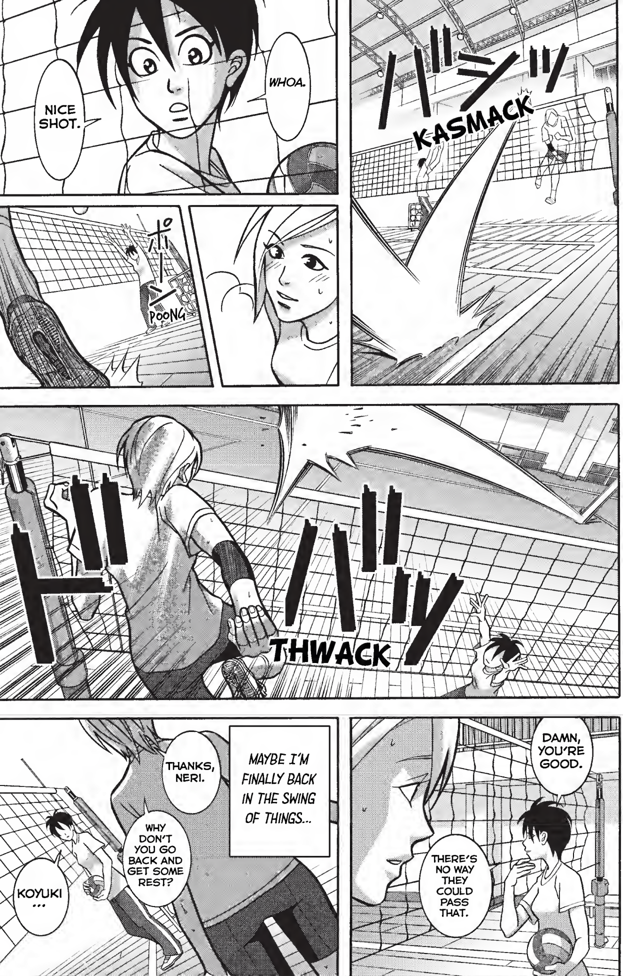

式島整骨院
診療内容
一、整体治療
一、スポーツ
式島整骨院
OH YEAH, RIGHT THERE.
DAMN, YOU'RE GOOD, SHIGERU-CHAN.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU'RE DOING IT YOURSELF, MASA-SAN.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS BOY HAS A WAYS TO GO BEFORE HE'S AS GOOD AS ME.
ガラッ
SHMP
HEY, BRO.
*HO HO*, WENT TO SCHOOL TODAY, HUH, MICHIRU? WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
SHUT UP, BALDY.
QUIT MAKING YOUR SON DO YOUR JOB SO YOU CAN SLACK OFF.
WHAT'S UP?
SOUNDS LIKE HAKUUNZAN AND AMEYA ARE PLAYING A PRACTICE GAME ON SUNDAY.
HEAR THAT? GO CHEER FOR NERI-CHAN, BOY!
HER SCHOOL WON'T ALLOW HER TO MEET WITH ANYONE AT THE GAME.
WELL, I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT, SO TAKE SOME PICTURES FOR ME, WILL YA?
HUH? HEY, WAIT—
月刊バレー天国
ピシャ
THUD

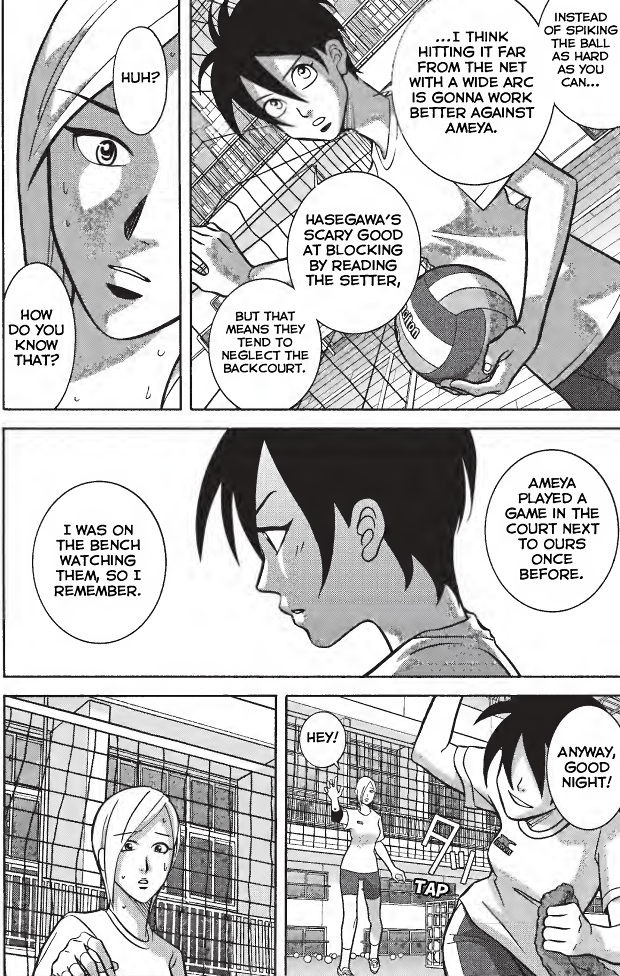
Sign: Shikishima Osteopathy

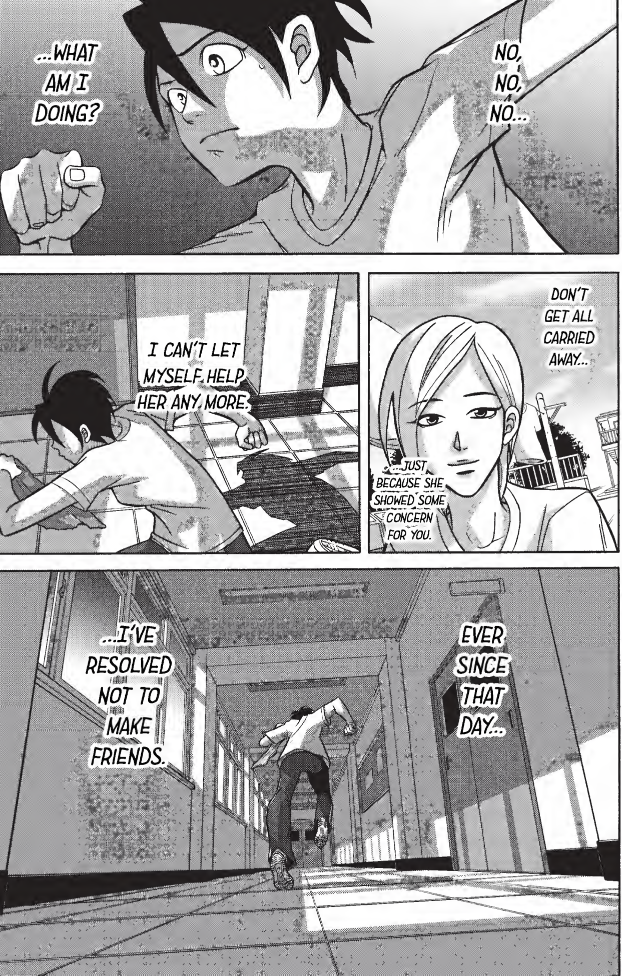

SM2515
COMPOSE MESSAGE (NEW)
To (1 RECIPIENT)
ANEKI
SUBJECT
BODY
DoCoDa
CLACK
OH!
SO YOU FEEL LIKE GOING NOW?
I WAS JUST GONNA ASK WHETHER SHE'D BE STARTING OR ON THE BENCH.
SERIOUSLY?
YOU CAN SEE HER FACE EVEN IF SHE IS ON THE BENCH.
YOU OFF TO PRACTICE?
NOPE.
I QUIT THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB.
IT WAS BORING.
WHAT?

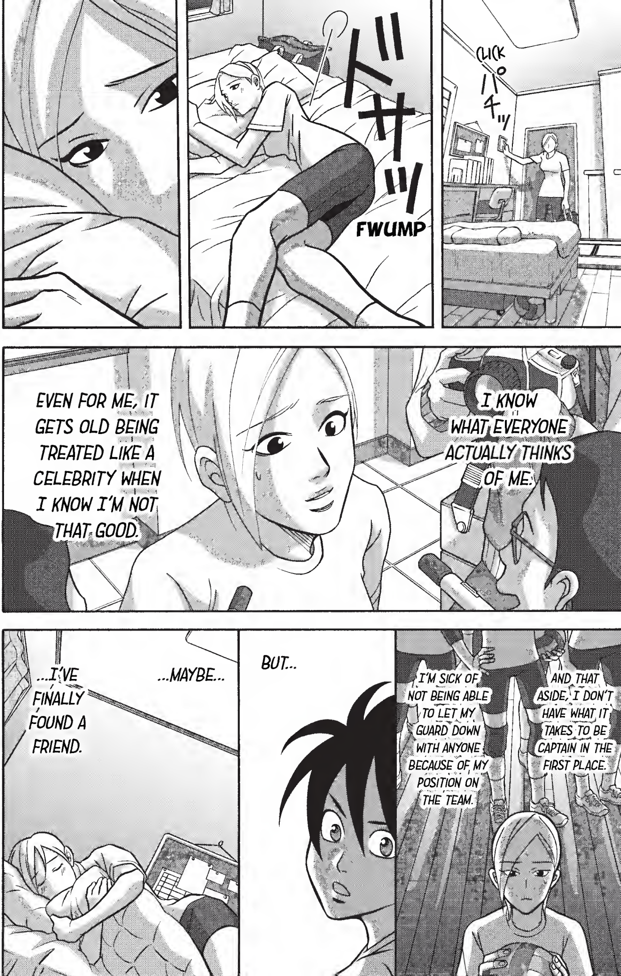

I HAD FUN BACK WHEN IT WAS YOU, ME, AND NERI.
I THINK SHE FEELS THE SAME.
ANYWAY, GOTTA GO. SOMEBODY'S WAITING FOR ME.
SEE YA.
ピシャ
THUD
EVEN IF YOU GET BORED OF IT...
...YOU JUST CAN'T QUIT. IS THAT IT?

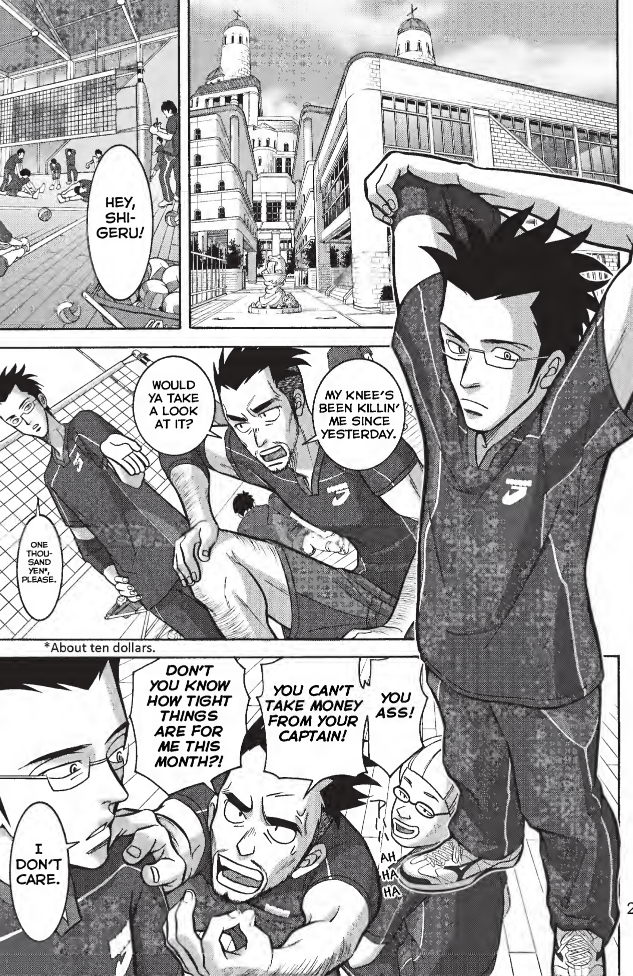

ボン
THMP
バシッ
SMACK
OH!
HEY, NERI.
ACK, SPOTTED.
WANT ME TO SET FOR YOU?
ポーン
POOOONG


バシッ
KASMACK
WHOA.
NICE SHOT.
ポーン
POONG
THWACK
DAMN, YOU'RE GOOD.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD PASS THAT.
THANKS, NERI.
MAYBE I'M FINALLY BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS...
WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK AND GET SOME REST?
KOYUKI...

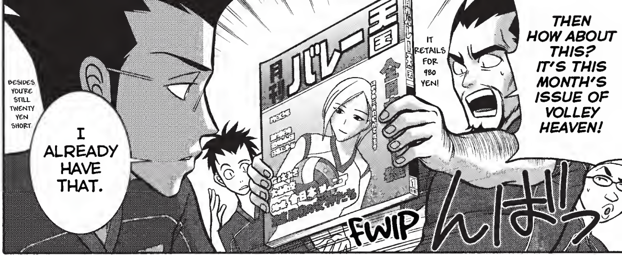

INSTEAD OF SPIKING THE BALL AS HARD AS YOU CAN...
...I THINK HITTING IT FAR FROM THE NET WITH A WIDE ARC IS GONNA WORK BETTER AGAINST AMEYA.
HASEGAWA'S SCARY GOOD AT BLOCKING BY READING THE SETTER,
BUT THAT MEANS THEY TEND TO NEGLECT THE BACKCOURT.
HUH?
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
AMEYA PLAYED A GAME IN THE COURT NEXT TO OURS ONCE BEFORE.
I WAS ON THE BENCH WATCHING THEM, SO I REMEMBER.
ANYWAY, GOOD NIGHT!
TAP
HEY!


NO, NO, NO...
...WHAT AM I DOING?
DON'T GET ALL CARRIED AWAY...
...JUST BECAUSE SHE SHOWED SOME CONCERN FOR YOU.
I CAN'T LET MYSELF HELP HER ANY MORE.
EVER SINCE THAT DAY...
...I'VE RESOLVED NOT TO MAKE FRIENDS.

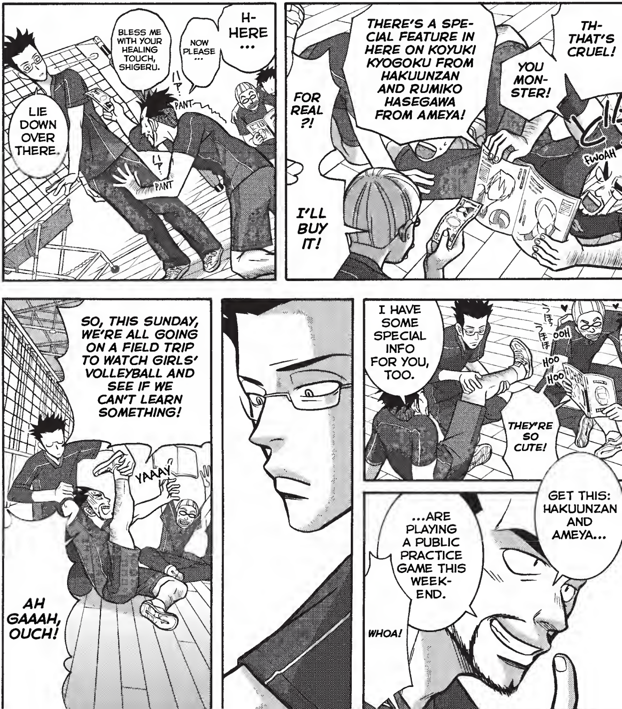

CLICK
パチッ
ドサッ
FWUMP
EVEN FOR ME, IT GETS OLD BEING TREATED LIKE A CELEBRITY WHEN I KNOW I'M NOT THAT GOOD.
I KNOW WHAT EVERYONE ACTUALLY THINKS OF ME.
I'M SICK OF NOT BEING ABLE TO LET MY GUARD DOWN WITH ANYONE BECAUSE OF MY POSITION ON THE TEAM.
AND THAT ASIDE, I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE CAPTAIN IN THE FIRST PLACE.
BUT...
...MAYBE...
...I'VE FINALLY FOUND A FRIEND.

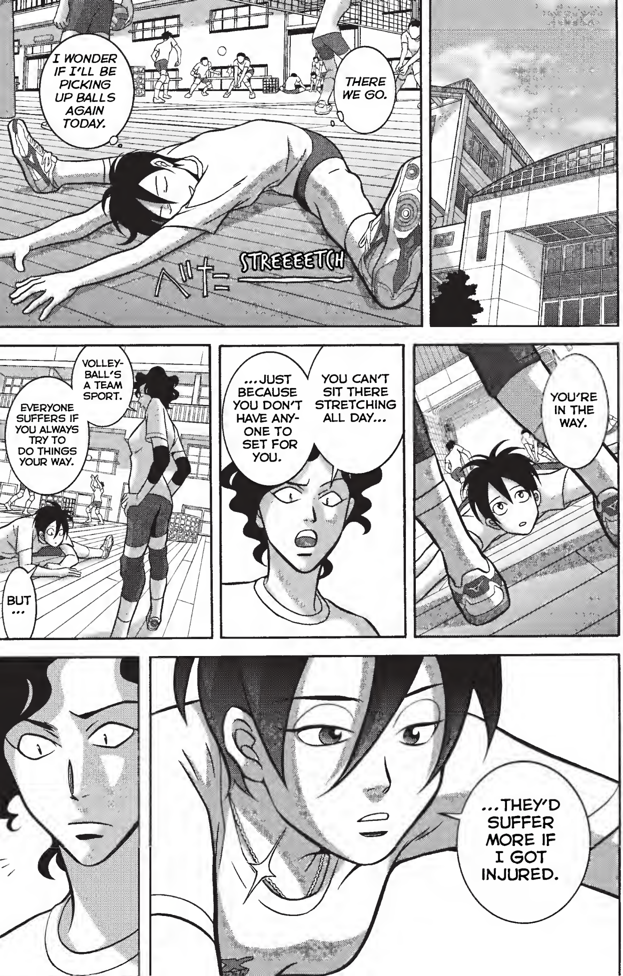

HEY, SHIGERU!
MY KNEE'S BEEN KILLIN' ME SINCE YESTERDAY.
WOULD YA TAKE A LOOK AT IT?
ONE THOUSAND YEN*, PLEASE.
YOU ASS!
YOU CAN'T TAKE MONEY FROM YOUR CAPTAIN!
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW TIGHT THINGS ARE FOR ME THIS MONTH?!
I DON'T CARE.
AH HA HA

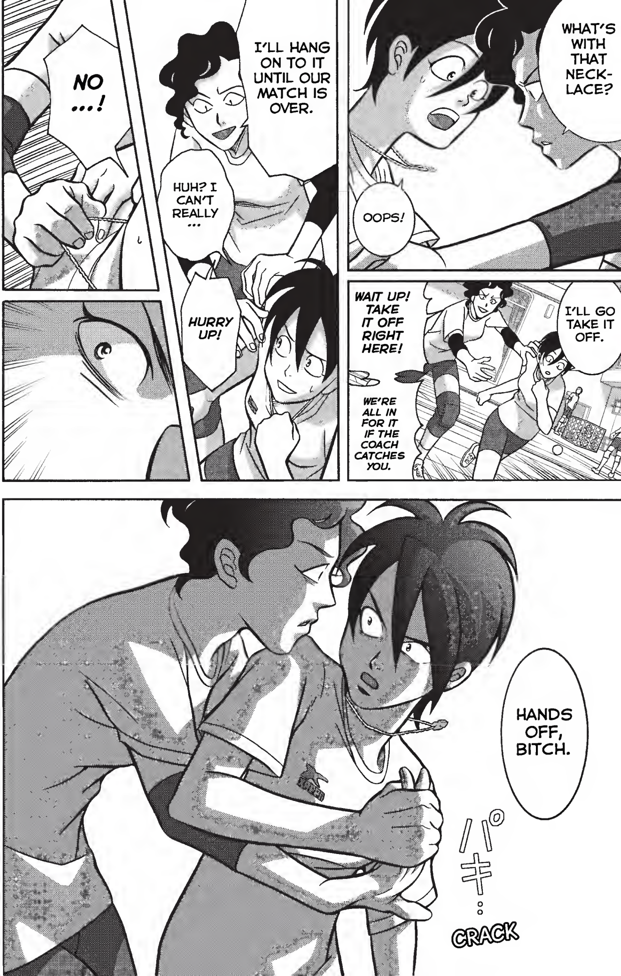
*About ten dollars.

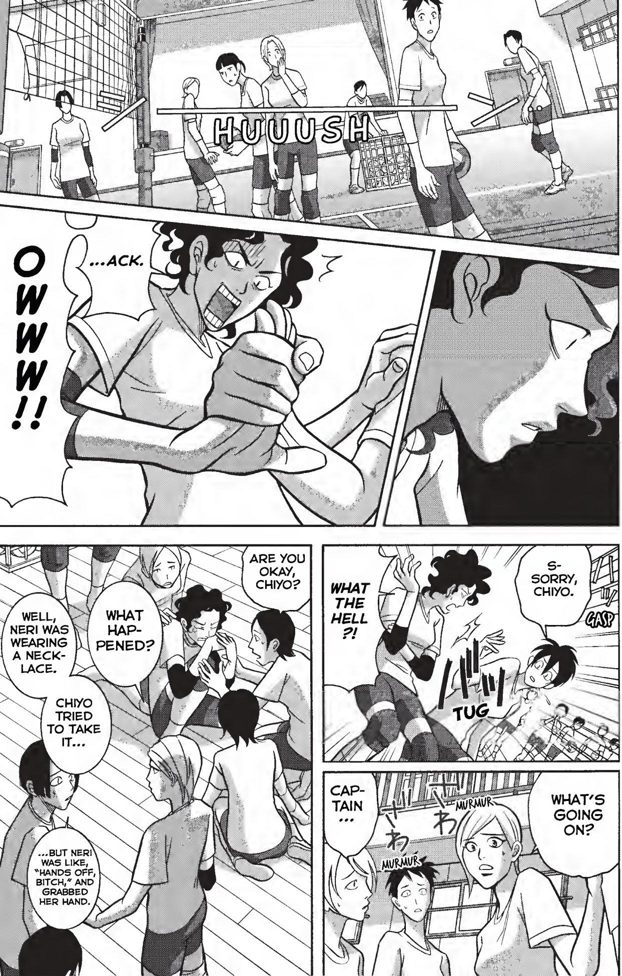

THEN HOW ABOUT THIS? IT'S THIS MONTH'S ISSUE OF VOLLEY HEAVEN!
IT RETAILS FOR 980 YEN!
月刊バレー天国
I ALREADY HAVE THAT.
BESIDES YOU'RE STILL TWENTY YEN SHORT.
んぱ!!っ
FWIP

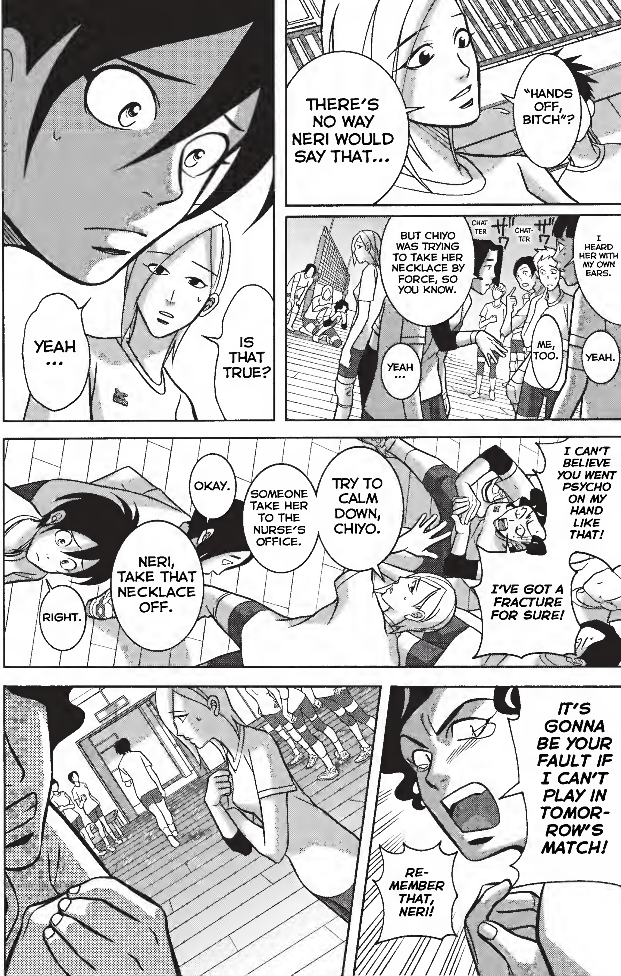
Magazine: Monthly Volley Heaven

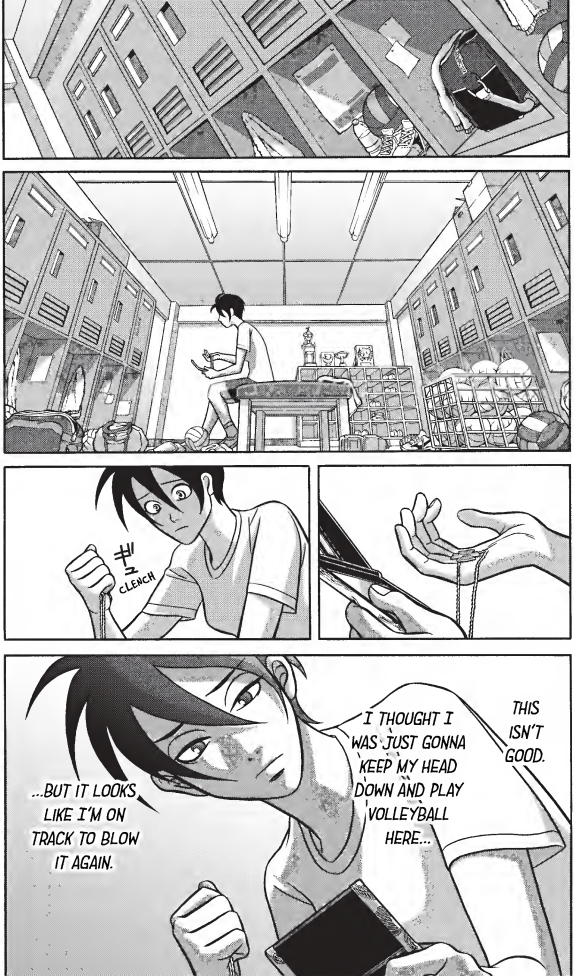

TH-THAT'S CRUEL!
YOU MONSTER!
THERE'S A SPECIAL FEATURE IN HERE ON KOYUKI KYOGOKU FROM HAKUUNZAN AND RUMIKO HASEGAWA FROM AMEYA!
FOR REAL?!
FWOAH
I'LL BUY IT!
H-HERE...
NOW PLEASE...
BLESS ME WITH YOUR HEALING TOUCH, SHIGERU.
ハァ
PANT
ハァ
PANT
LIE DOWN OVER THERE.
I HAVE SOME SPECIAL INFO FOR YOU, TOO.
うほっうほほ
OOH
HOO HOO
THEY'RE SO CUTE!
GET THIS: HAKUUNZAN AND AMEYA...
...ARE PLAYING A PUBLIC PRACTICE GAME THIS WEEKEND.
WHOA!
SO, THIS SUNDAY, WE'RE ALL GOING ON A FIELD TRIP TO WATCH GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL AND SEE IF WE CAN'T LEARN SOMETHING!
YAAAY
AH GAAAH, OUCH!

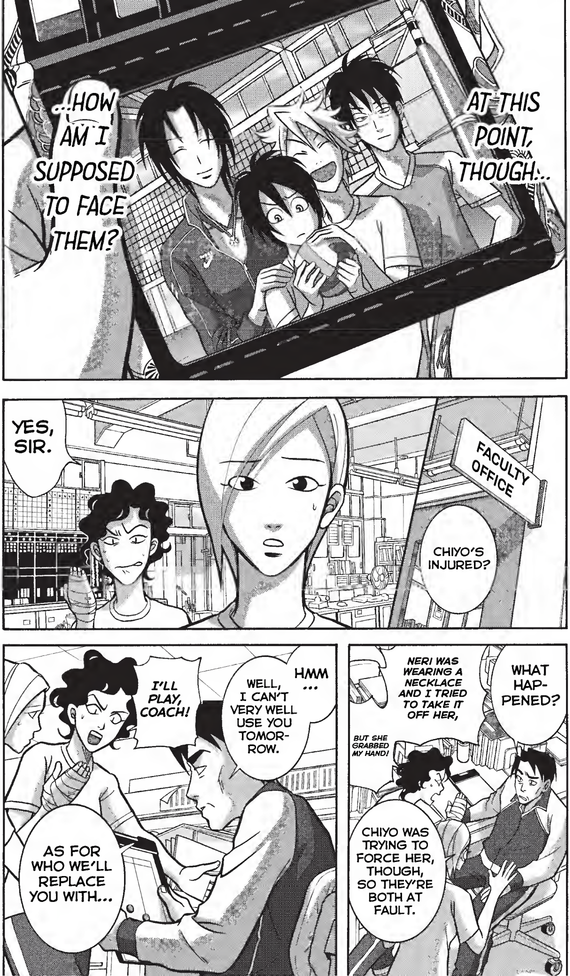

THERE WE GO.
I WONDER IF I'LL BE PICKING UP BALLS AGAIN TODAY.
ベ十二 STREEEETCH
YOU'RE IN THE WAY.
YOU CAN'T SIT THERE STRETCHING ALL DAY...
...JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO SET FOR YOU.
VOLLEYBALL'S A TEAM SPORT.
EVERYONE SUFFERS IF YOU ALWAYS TRY TO DO THINGS YOUR WAY.
BUT...
...THEY'D SUFFER MORE IF I GOT INJURED.

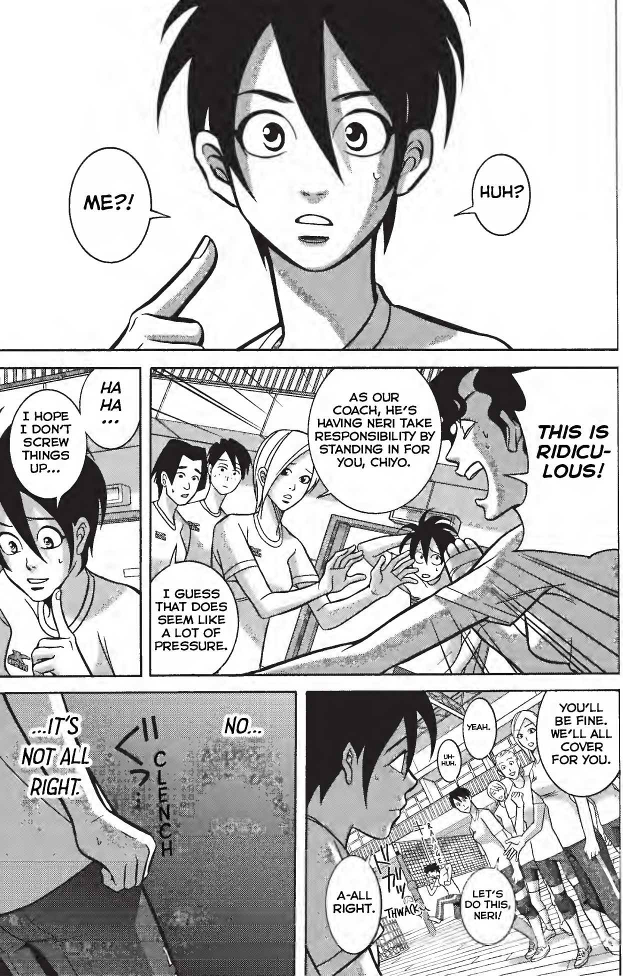

WHAT'S WITH THAT NECKLACE?
OOPS!
I'LL HANG ON TO IT UNTIL OUR MATCH IS OVER.
HUH? I CAN'T REALLY ...
HURRY UP!
NO ...!
I'LL GO TAKE IT OFF.
WAIT UP! TAKE IT OFF RIGHT HERE!
WE'RE ALL IN FOR IT IF THE COACH CATCHES YOU.
HANDS OFF, BITCH.
パキ∴
CRACK

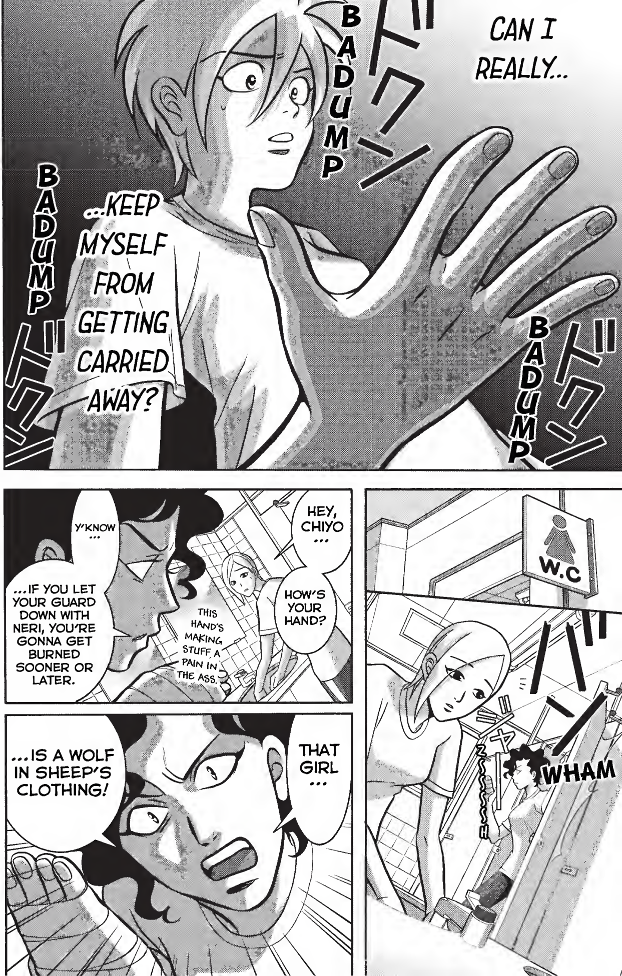

HUUUSH
...ACK.
OWWWW!!
S-SORRY, CHIYO.
GASP
バッ
TUG
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ざわ
MURMUR
ざわ
MURMUR
CAPTAIN...
ARE YOU OKAY, CHIYO?
WHAT HAPPENED?
WELL, NERI WAS WEARING A NECKLACE.
CHIYO TRIED TO TAKE IT...
...BUT NERI WAS LIKE, "HANDS OFF, BITCH," AND GRABBED HER HAND.

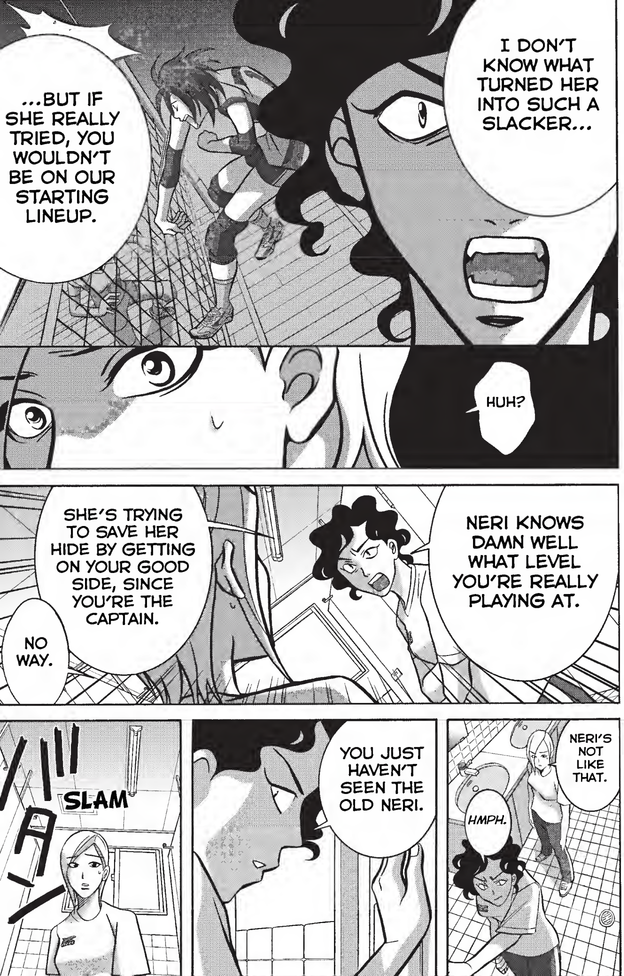

"HANDS OFF, BITCH"?
THERE'S NO WAY NERI WOULD SAY THAT...
I HEARD HER WITH MY OWN EARS.
CHATTER
CHATTER
BUT CHIYO WAS TRYING TO TAKE HER NECKLACE BY FORCE, SO YOU KNOW.
YEAH.
ME, TOO.
YEAH...
IS THAT TRUE?
YEAH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WENT PSYCHO ON MY HAND LIKE THAT!
I'VE GOT A FRACTURE FOR SURE!
TRY TO CALM DOWN, CHIYO.
SOMEONE TAKE HER TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
OKAY.
NERI, TAKE THAT NECKLACE OFF.
RIGHT.
IT'S GONNA BE YOUR FAULT IF I CAN'T PLAY IN TOMORROW'S MATCH!
REMEMBER THAT, NERI!

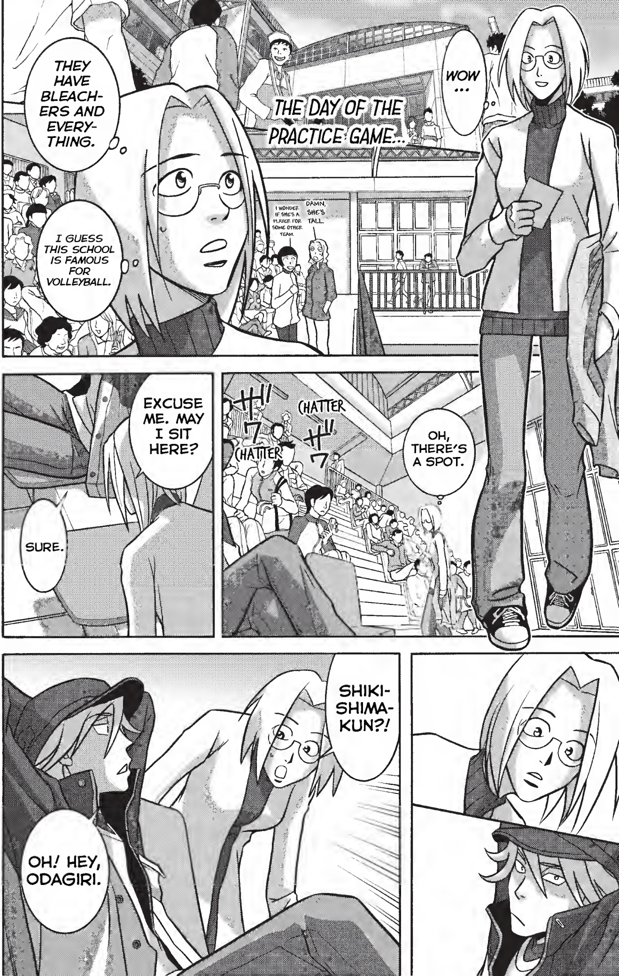

ギュ CLENCH
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
I THOUGHT I WAS JUST GONNA KEEP MY HEAD DOWN AND PLAY VOLLEYBALL HERE...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'M ON TRACK TO BLOW IT AGAIN.

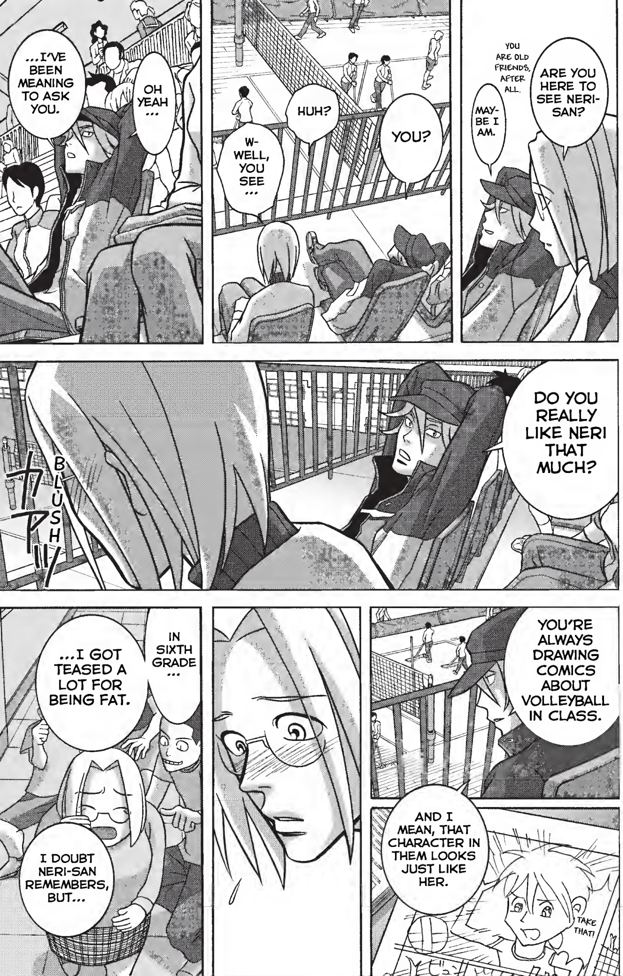

AT THIS POINT, THOUGH...
...HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FACE THEM?
FACULTY OFFICE
CHIYO'S INJURED?
YES, SIR.
WHAT HAPPENED?
NERI WAS WEARING A NECKLACE AND I TRIED TO TAKE IT OFF HER,
BUT SHE GRABBED MY HAND!
CHIYO WAS TRYING TO FORCE HER, THOUGH, SO THEY'RE BOTH AT FAULT.
HMM...
WELL, I CAN'T VERY WELL USE YOU TOMORROW.
I'LL PLAY, COACH!
AS FOR WHO WE'LL REPLACE YOU WITH...

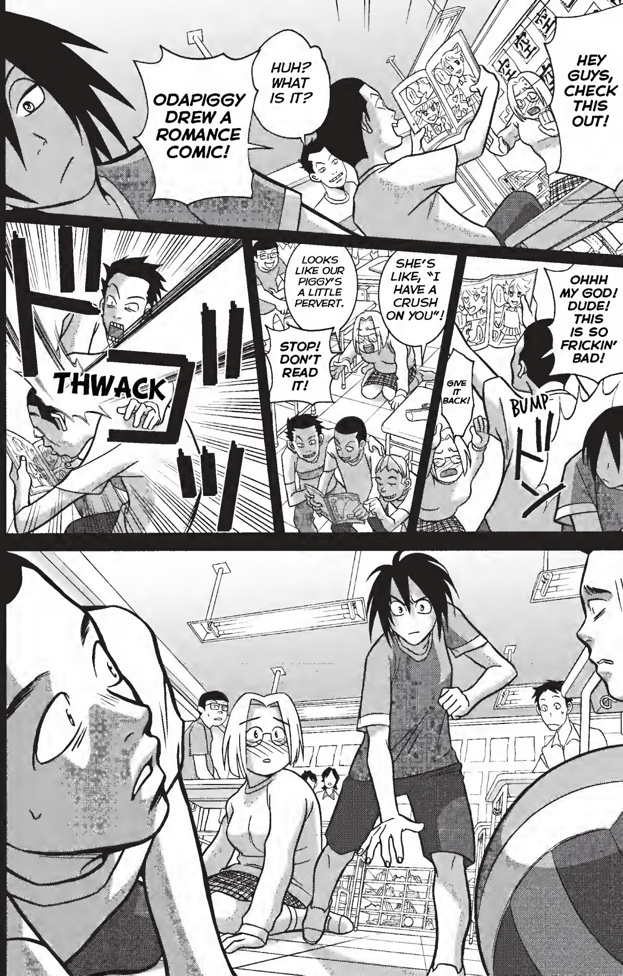

HUH?
ME?!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
AS OUR COACH, HE'S HAVING NERI TAKE RESPONSIBILITY BY STANDING IN FOR YOU, CHIYO.
I GUESS THAT DOES SEEM LIKE A LOT OF PRESSURE.
HA HA ...
I HOPE I DON'T SCREW THINGS UP...
YOU'LL BE FINE. WE'LL ALL COVER FOR YOU.
YEAH.
UH-HUH.
LET'S DO THIS, NERI!
A-ALL RIGHT.
RANGE
THWACK
NO...
...IT'S NOT ALL RIGHT.
CLENCH

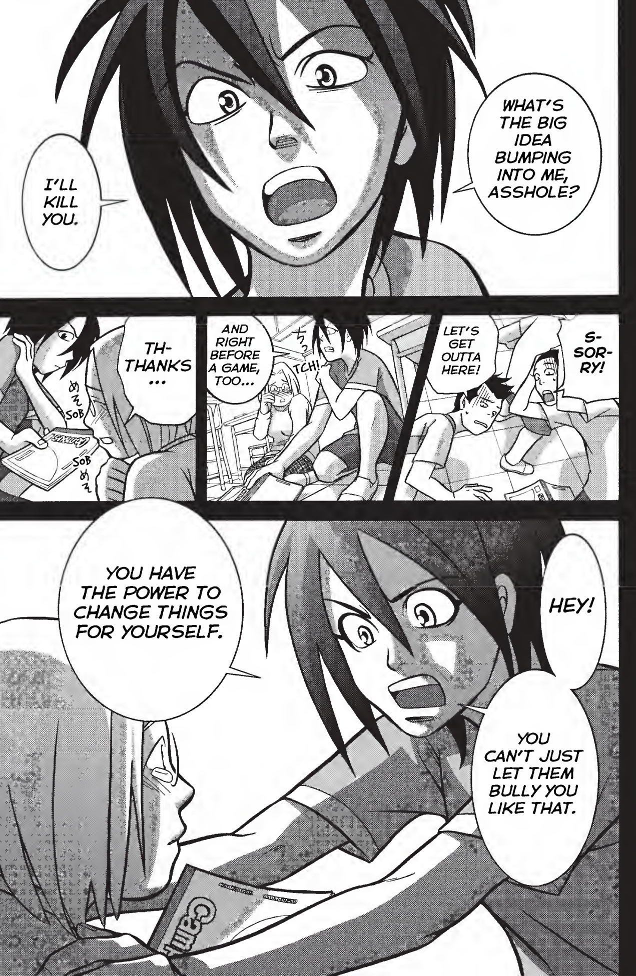

CAN I REALLY...
BADUMP
ドクン
...KEEP MYSELF FROM GETTING CARRIED AWAY?
BADUMP
ドクン
BADUMP
ドクン
W.C
バン
WHAM
HEY, CHIYO...
HOW'S YOUR HAND?
THIS HAND'S MAKING STUFF A PAIN IN THE ASS.
Y'KNOW...
...IF YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN WITH NERI, YOU'RE GONNA GET BURNED SOONER OR LATER.
THAT GIRL...
...IS A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING!

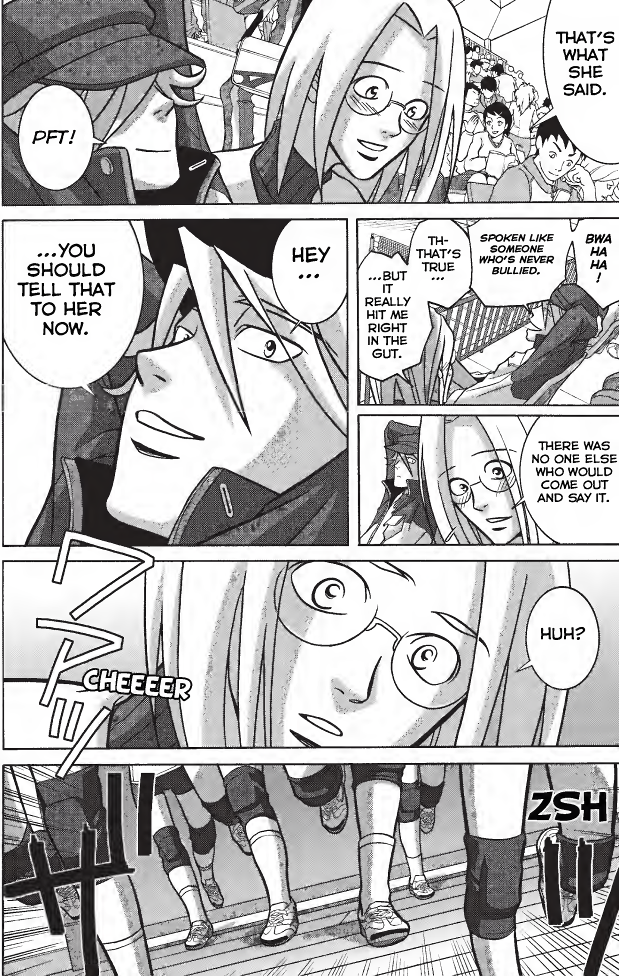

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TURNED HER INTO SUCH A SLACKER...
...BUT IF SHE REALLY TRIED, YOU WOULDN'T BE ON OUR STARTING LINEUP.
HUH?
NERI KNOWS DAMN WELL WHAT LEVEL YOU'RE REALLY PLAYING AT.
SHE'S TRYING TO SAVE HER HIDE BY GETTING ON YOUR GOOD SIDE, SINCE YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN.
NO WAY.
NERI'S NOT LIKE THAT.
HMPH.
YOU JUST HAVEN'T SEEN THE OLD NERI.
SLAM

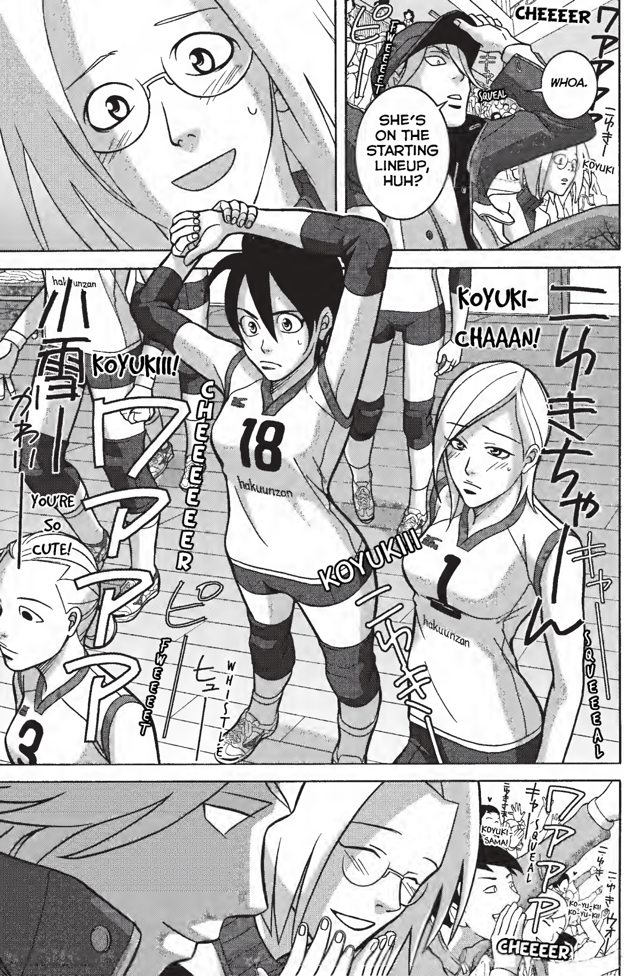

THE DAY OF THE PRACTICE GAME...
WOW...
DAMN, SHE'S TALL.
I WONDER IF SHE'S A PLAYER FOR SOME OTHER TEAM.
THEY HAVE BLEACHERS AND EVERYTHING.
I GUESS THIS SCHOOL IS FAMOUS FOR VOLLEYBALL.
OH, THERE'S A SPOT.
ザワ CHATTER
ザワ CHATTER
EXCUSE ME. MAY I SIT HERE?
SURE.
SHIKISHIMA-KUN?!
OH! HEY, ODAGIRI.

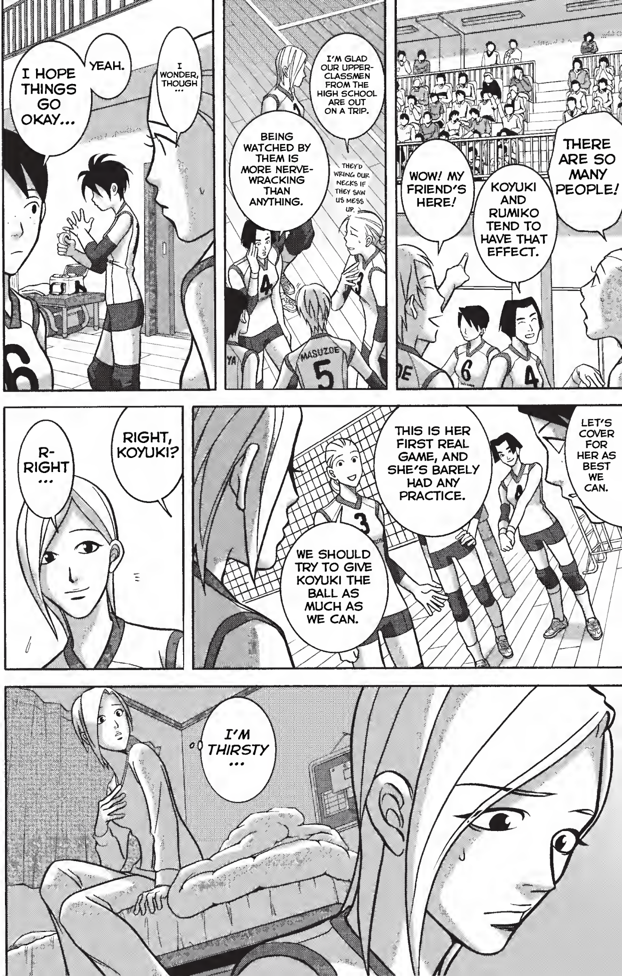

ARE YOU HERE TO SEE NERI-SAN?
YOU ARE OLD FRIENDS, AFTER ALL.
MAY-BE I AM.
YOU?
HUH?
W-WELL, YOU SEE...
OH YEAH...
...I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU.
DO YOU REALLY LIKE NERI THAT MUCH?
BLUSH
YOU'RE ALWAYS DRAWING COMICS ABOUT VOLLEYBALL IN CLASS.
AND I MEAN, THAT CHARACTER IN THEM LOOKS JUST LIKE HER.
TAKE THAT!
IN SIXTH GRADE...
...I GOT TEASED A LOT FOR BEING FAT.
I DOUBT NERI-SAN REMEMBERS, BUT...

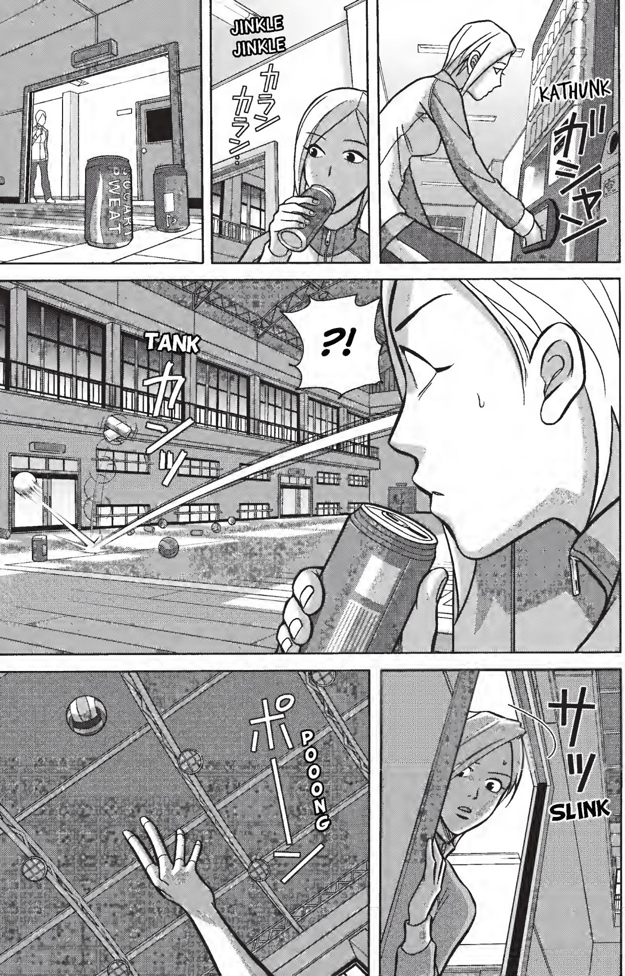

HEY GUYS, CHECK THIS OUT!
HUH? WHAT IS IT?
ODAPIGGY DREW A ROMANCE COMIC!
OHHH MY GOD! DUDE! THIS IS SO FRICKIN' BAD!
BUMP
GIVE IT BACK!
SHE'S LIKE, "I HAVE A CRUSH ON YOU"!
LOOKS LIKE OUR PIGGY'S A LITTLE PERVERT.
STOP! DON'T READ IT!
THWACK

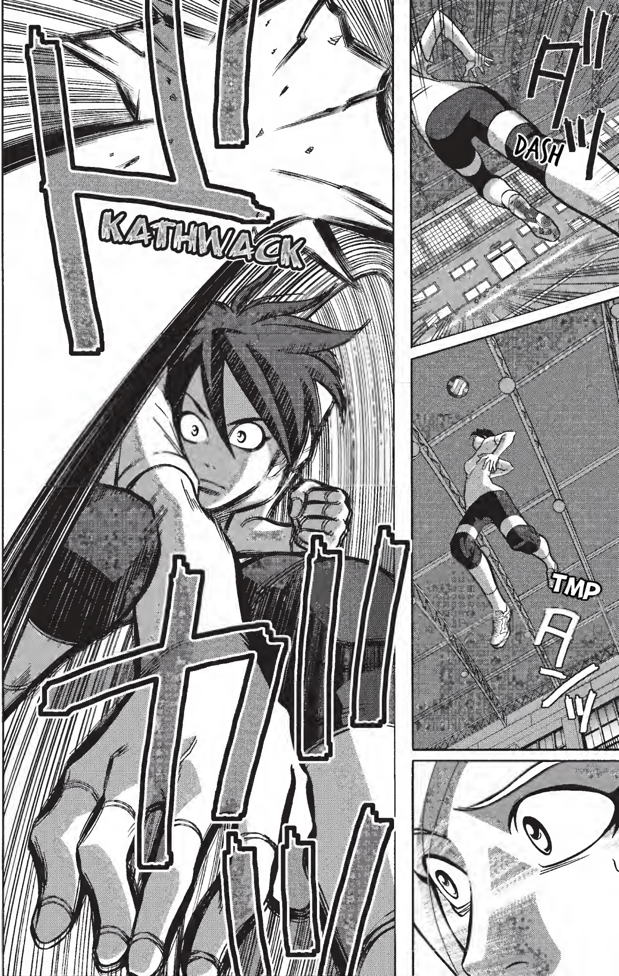

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA BUMPING INTO ME, ASSHOLE?
I'LL KILL YOU.
S-SORRY!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
チッ TCH!
AND RIGHT BEFORE A GAME, TOO...
TH-THANKS...
めそ SOB
SOB めそ
HEY!
YOU CAN'T JUST LET THEM BULLY YOU LIKE THAT.
YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THINGS FOR YOURSELF.

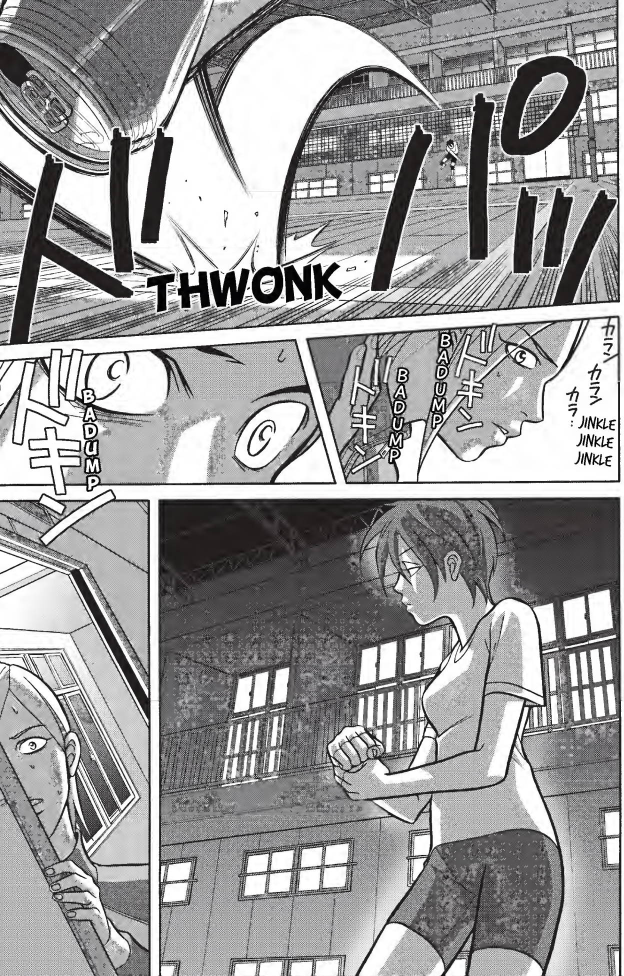

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.
PFT!
BWA HA HA!
SPOKEN LIKE SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER BULLIED.
TH- THAT'S TRUE...
...BUT IT REALLY HIT ME RIGHT IN THE GUT.
THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE WHO WOULD COME OUT AND SAY IT.
HEY...
...YOU SHOULD TELL THAT TO HER NOW.
HUH?
CHEEEER
ZSH

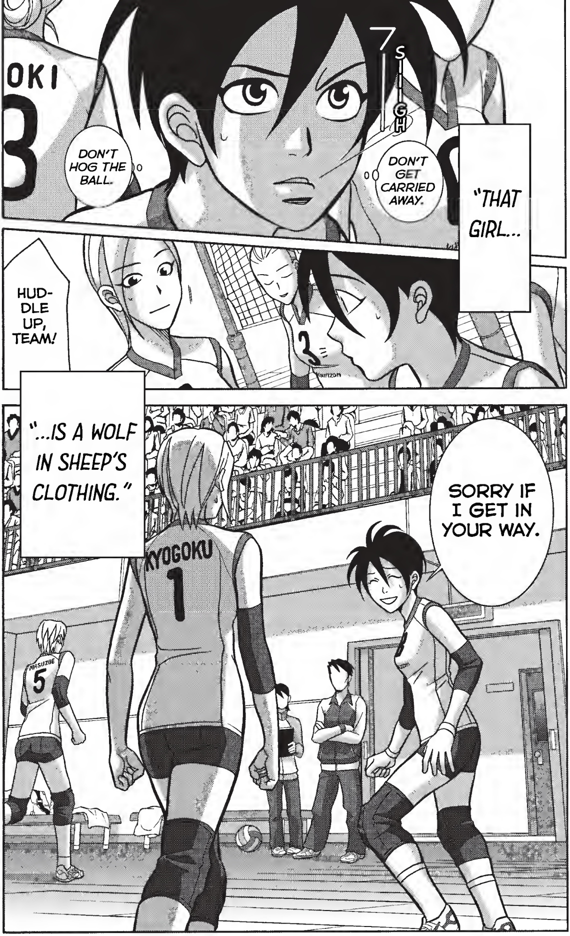

CHEEEER
ワァァァ
FWEEEET
ピー
キャ
SQUEAL
WHOA.
SHE'S ON THE STARTING LINEUP, HUH?
こゆきー
KOYUKI
hakuunzan
こゆきちゃーん
KOYUKI-CHAAAN!
キャー
SQUEEEAL
こゆき
KOYUKIII
ピ
FWEEEET
ヒュ
WHISTLE
ワァァァ
CHEEEEEEER
小雪ー
KOYUKIII!
かわいー
YOU'RE SO CUTE!
18
hakuunzan
1
hakuunzan
3
ワァァ
CHEEEER
キャ
SQUEAL
こゆきさまー
KOYUKI-SAMA!
こゆき
こゆき
KO-YU-KI! KO-YU-KI!
ウォー


THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE!
KOYUKI AND RUMIKO TEND TO HAVE THAT EFFECT.
WOW! MY FRIEND'S HERE!
I'M GLAD OUR UPPER-CLASSMEN FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL ARE OUT ON A TRIP.
BEING WATCHED BY THEM IS MORE NERVE-WRACKING THAN ANYTHING.
THEY'D WRING OUR NECKS IF THEY SAW US MESS UP.
MASUZOE
I WONDER, THOUGH ...
YEAH.
I HOPE THINGS GO OKAY...
THIS IS HER FIRST REAL GAME, AND SHE'S BARELY HAD ANY PRACTICE.
LET'S COVER FOR HER AS BEST WE CAN.
WE SHOULD TRY TO GIVE KOYUKI THE BALL AS MUCH AS WE CAN.
RIGHT, KOYUKI?
R-RIGHT ...
I'M THIRSTY ...

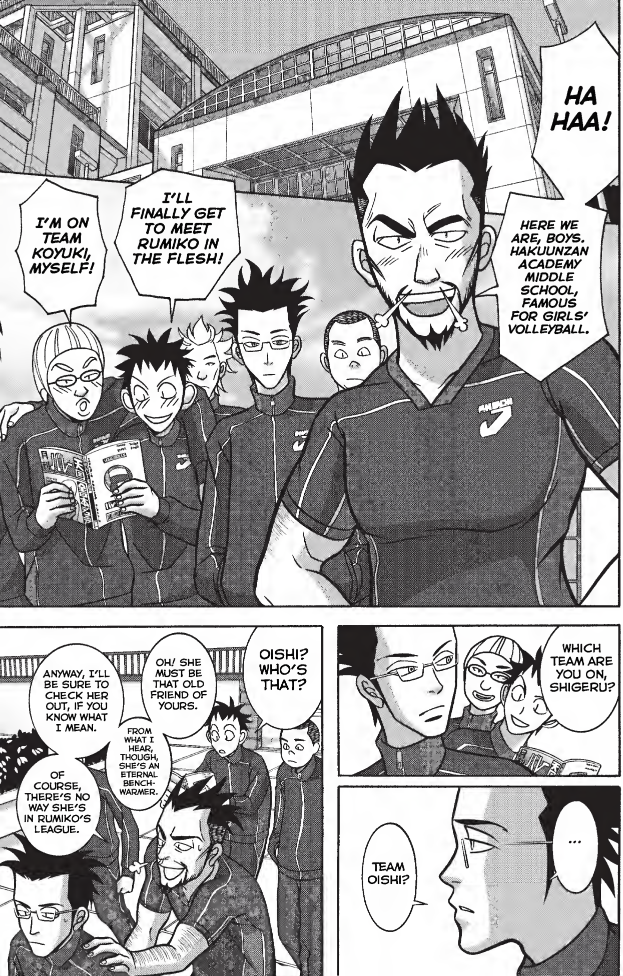

KATHUNK
ガシャン
JINKLE JINKLE
カランカラン…
SUGAR SWEAT
?!
TANK
カーンッ
サッ
SLINK
ポーーン
POOOONG


ダッ
DASH
タンッ
TMP
KATHWACK

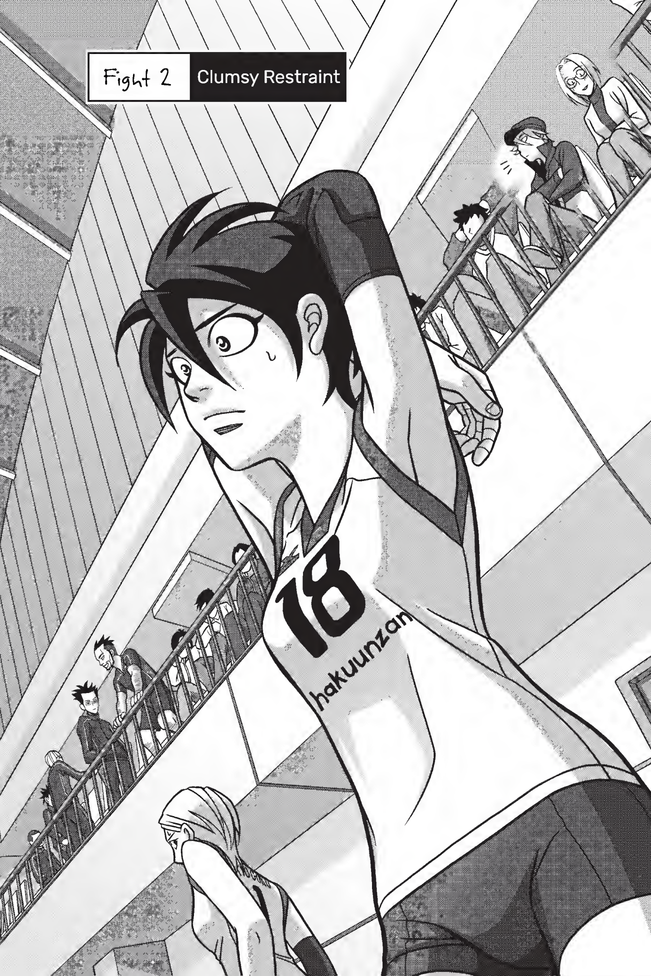

THWONK
カラン
カラン
カラ…
JINKLE
JINKLE
JINKLE
ドキン
BADUMP
ドキン
BADUMP
ドキン
BADUMP

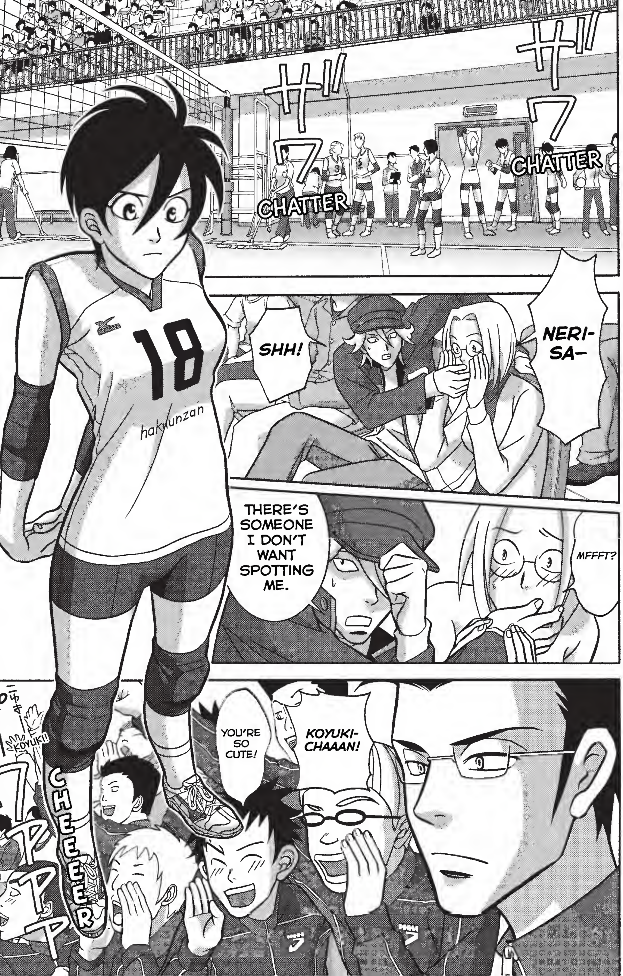

SIGH
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY.
DON'T HOG THE BALL.
OKI 3
"THAT GIRL...
HUDDLE UP, TEAM!
3
"...IS A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING."
SORRY IF I GET IN YOUR WAY.
KYOGOKU 1
MASUZOE 5

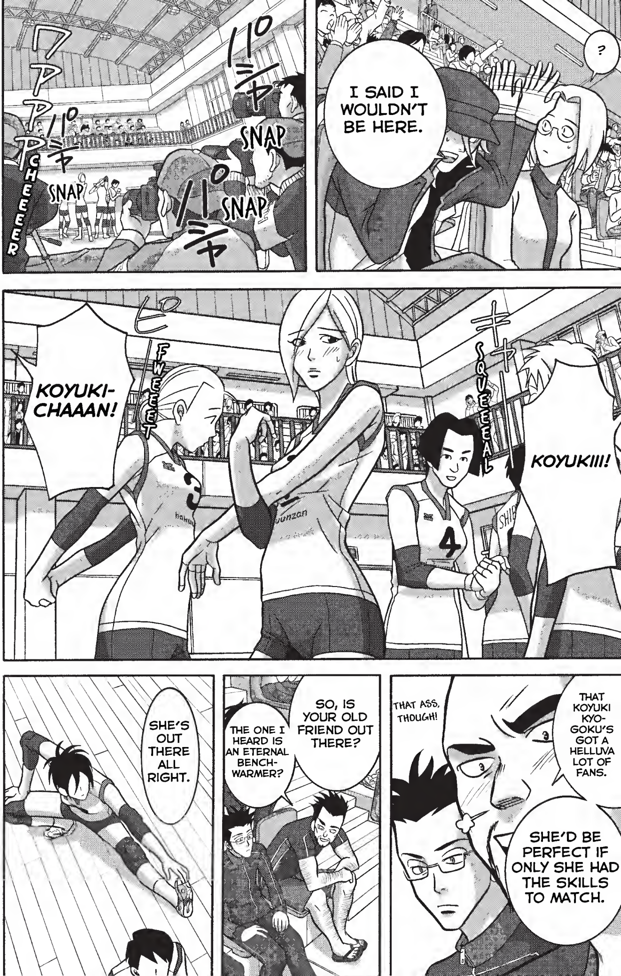
Fight 1, Over

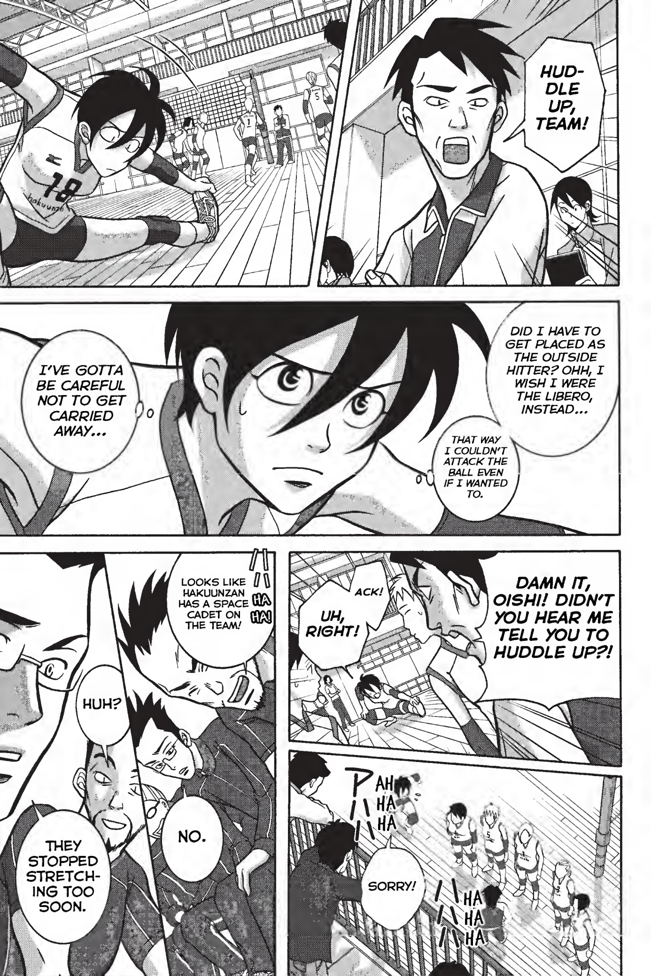

HA HAA!
HERE WE ARE, BOYS. HAKUUNZAN ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL, FAMOUS FOR GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL.
I'LL FINALLY GET TO MEET RUMIKO IN THE FLESH!
I'M ON TEAM KOYUKI, MYSELF!
WHICH TEAM ARE YOU ON, SHIGERU?
...
TEAM OISHI?
OISHI? WHO'S THAT?
OH! SHE MUST BE THAT OLD FRIEND OF YOURS.
FROM WHAT I HEAR, THOUGH, SHE'S AN ETERNAL BENCH-WARMER.
ANYWAY, I'LL BE SURE TO CHECK HER OUT, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
OF COURSE, THERE'S NO WAY SHE'S IN RUMIKO'S LEAGUE.

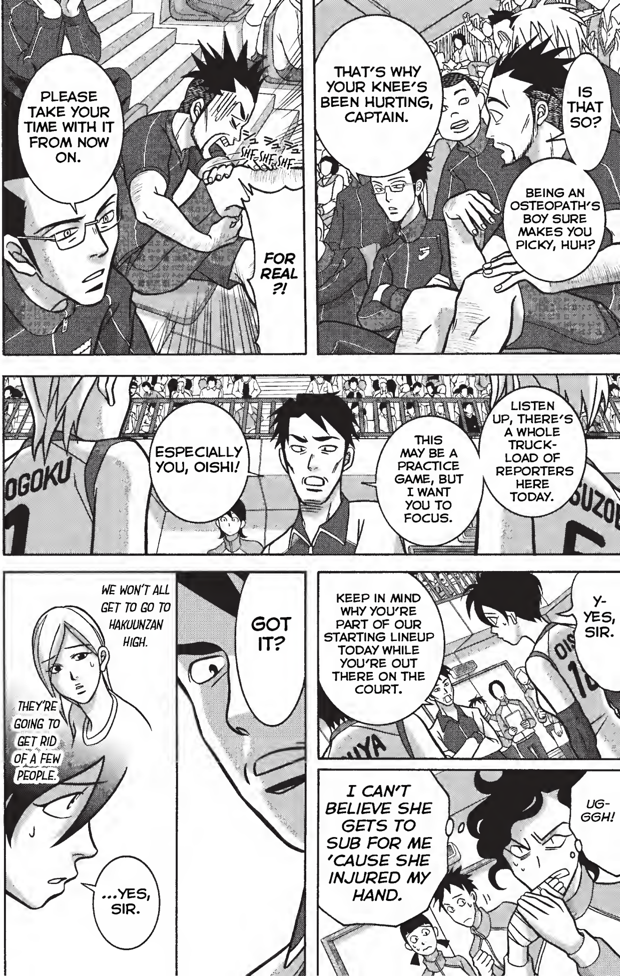
# Fight 2 Clumsy Restraint

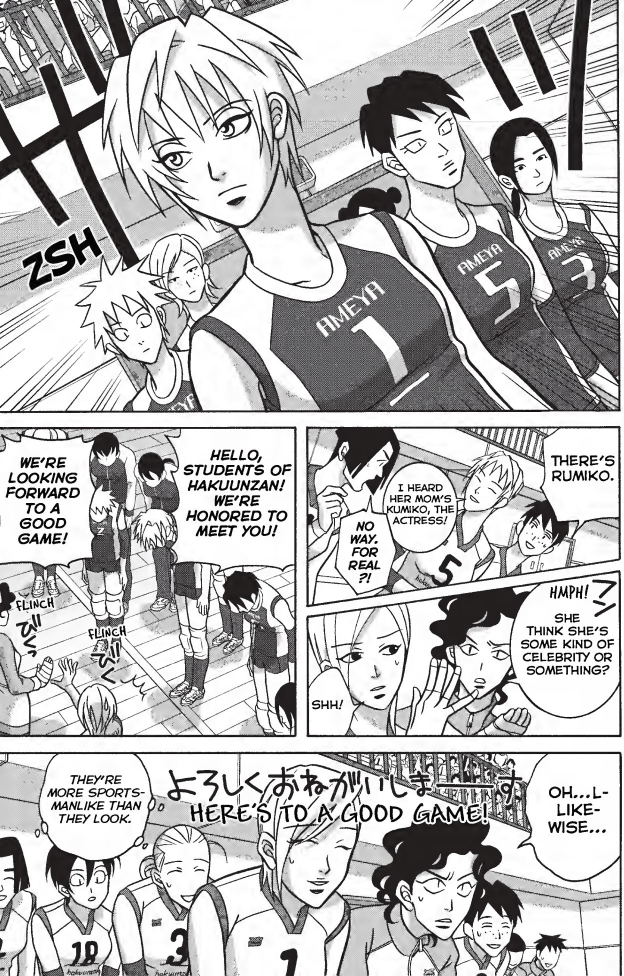

18
hakuunzan

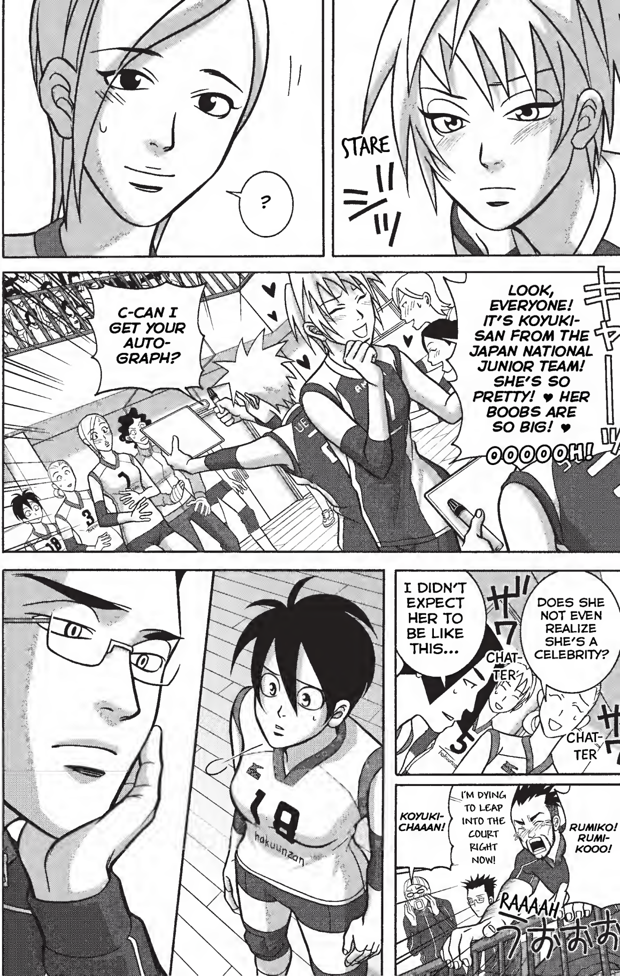

ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
NERI-SA–
SHH!
THERE'S SOMEONE I DON'T WANT SPOTTING ME.
MFFFT?
KOYUKI-CHAAAN!
YOU'RE SO CUTE!
こゆきー
KOYUKI!!
ワアアア
CHEEEER

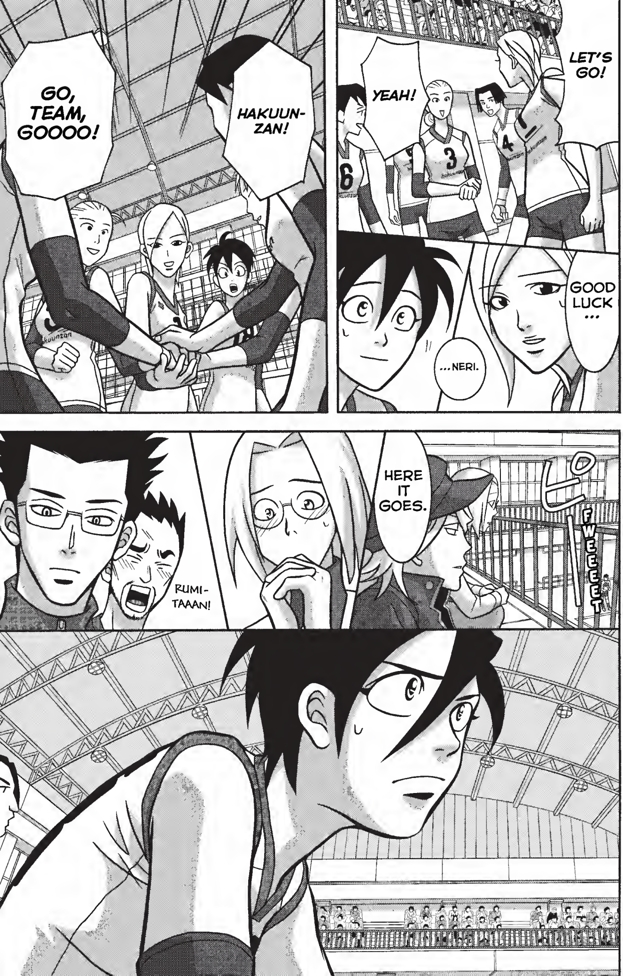

?
I SAID I WOULDN'T BE HERE.
ワァァァァ
CHEEEEER
パシャ
SNAP
パシャ
SNAP
パシャ
SNAP
KOYUKIII!
キャー
SQUEEEAL
ピー
FWEEET
KOYUKI-CHAAAN!
THAT KOYUKI KYOGOKU'S GOT A HELLUVA LOT OF FANS.
THAT ASS, THOUGH!
SHE'D BE PERFECT IF ONLY SHE HAD THE SKILLS TO MATCH.
SO, IS YOUR OLD FRIEND OUT THERE?
THE ONE I HEARD IS AN ETERNAL BENCH-WARMER?
SHE'S OUT THERE ALL RIGHT.

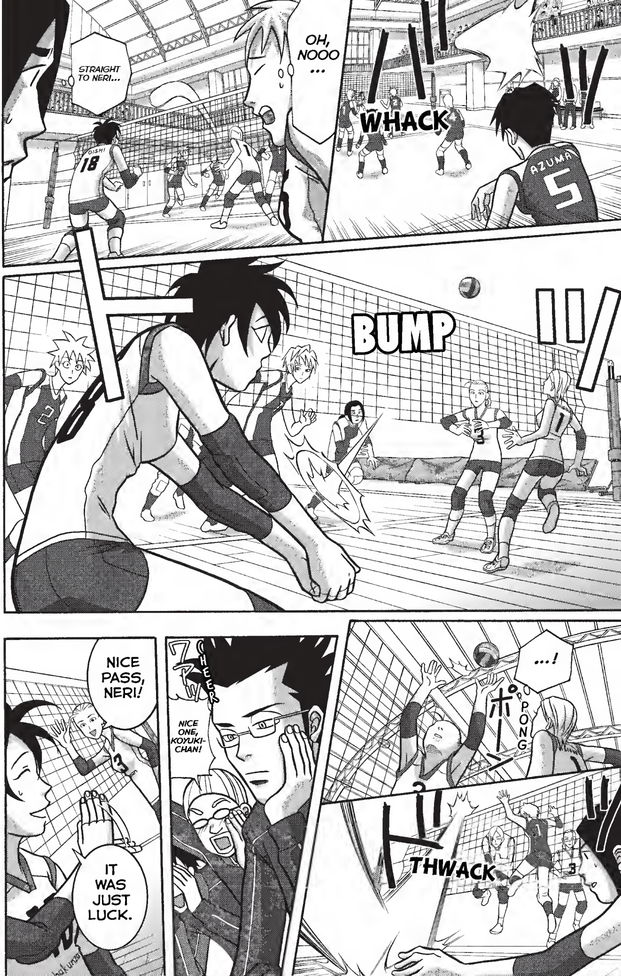

HUDDLE UP, TEAM!
18
hakuunzan
DID I HAVE TO GET PLACED AS THE OUTSIDE HITTER? OHH, I WISH I WERE THE LIBERO, INSTEAD...
THAT WAY I COULDN'T ATTACK THE BALL EVEN IF I WANTED TO.
I'VE GOTTA BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET CARRIED AWAY...
DAMN IT, OISHI! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME TELL YOU TO HUDDLE UP?!
ACK!
UH, RIGHT!
AH HA HA
SORRY!
HA HA HA
LOOKS LIKE HAKUUNZAN HAS A SPACE CADET ON THE TEAM!
HA HA!
HUH?
NO.
THEY STOPPED STRETCHING TOO SOON.

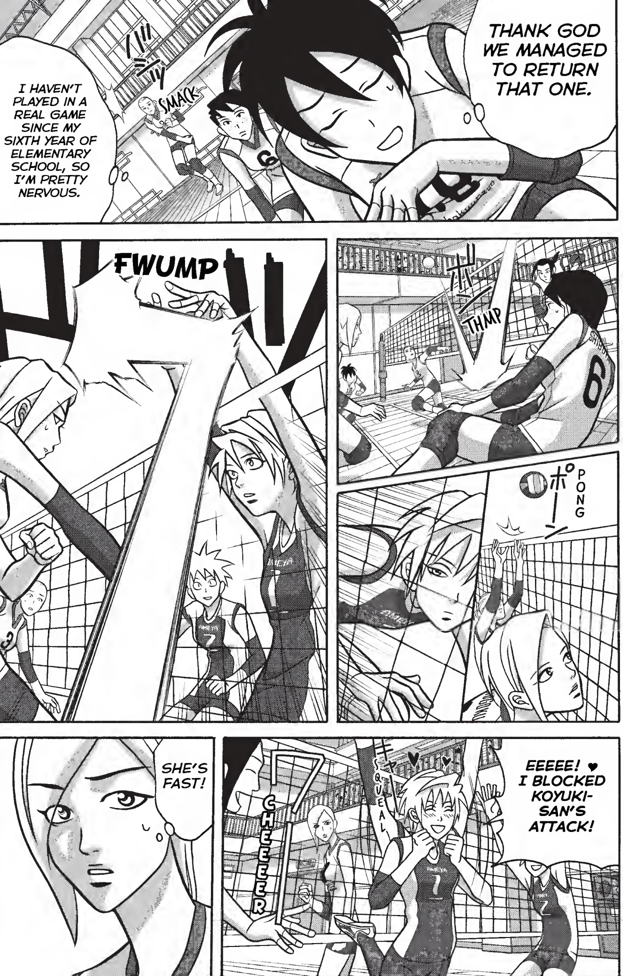

IS THAT SO?
THAT'S WHY YOUR KNEE'S BEEN HURTING, CAPTAIN.
BEING AN OSTEOPATH'S BOY SURE MAKES YOU PICKY, HUH?
FOR REAL?!
SHF SHF SHF
PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME WITH IT FROM NOW ON.
LISTEN UP, THERE'S A WHOLE TRUCKLOAD OF REPORTERS HERE TODAY.
SUZOU
THIS MAY BE A PRACTICE GAME, BUT I WANT YOU TO FOCUS.
ESPECIALLY YOU, OISHI!
OGOKU
Y-YES, SIR.
KEEP IN MIND WHY YOU'RE PART OF OUR STARTING LINEUP TODAY WHILE YOU'RE OUT THERE ON THE COURT.
GOT IT?
WE WON'T ALL GET TO GO TO HAKUUNZAN HIGH.
THEY'RE GOING TO GET RID OF A FEW PEOPLE.
...YES, SIR.
UG-GGH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE GETS TO SUB FOR ME 'CAUSE SHE INJURED MY HAND.

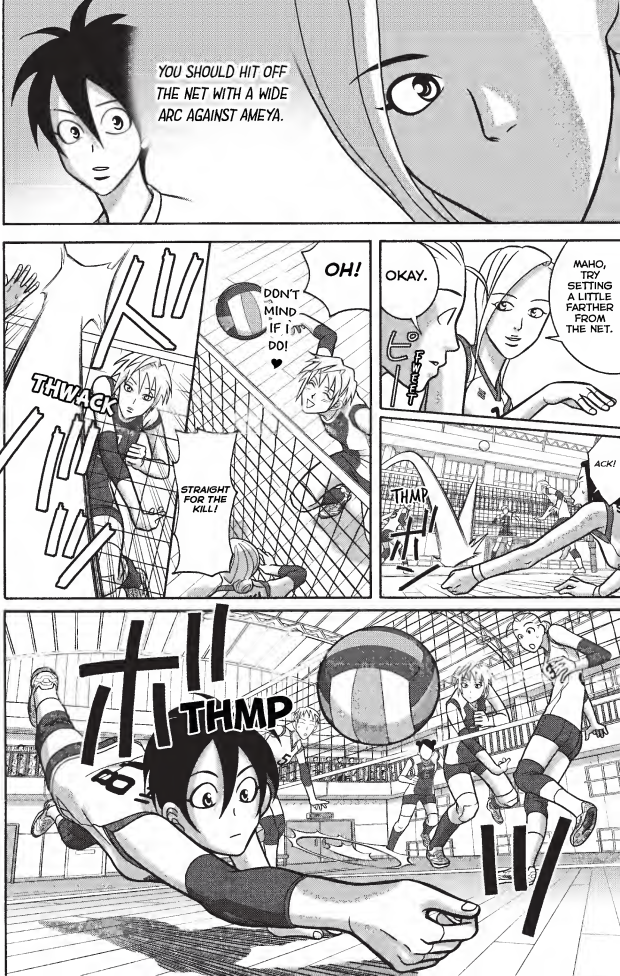

ZSH
AMEYA 1
AMEYA 5
AMEYA 3
THERE'S RUMIKO.
I HEARD HER MOM'S KUMIKO, THE ACTRESS!
NO WAY. FOR REAL?!
HMPH! フン
SHE THINK SHE'S SOME KIND OF CELEBRITY OR SOMETHING?
SHH!
HELLO, STUDENTS OF HAKUUNZAN! WE'RE HONORED TO MEET YOU!
WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO A GOOD GAME!
FLINCH びくっ
FLINCH びくっ
OH...L-LIKEWISE...
よろしくおねがいしまーーす
HERE'S TO A GOOD GAME!
THEY'RE MORE SPORTSMANLIKE THAN THEY LOOK.

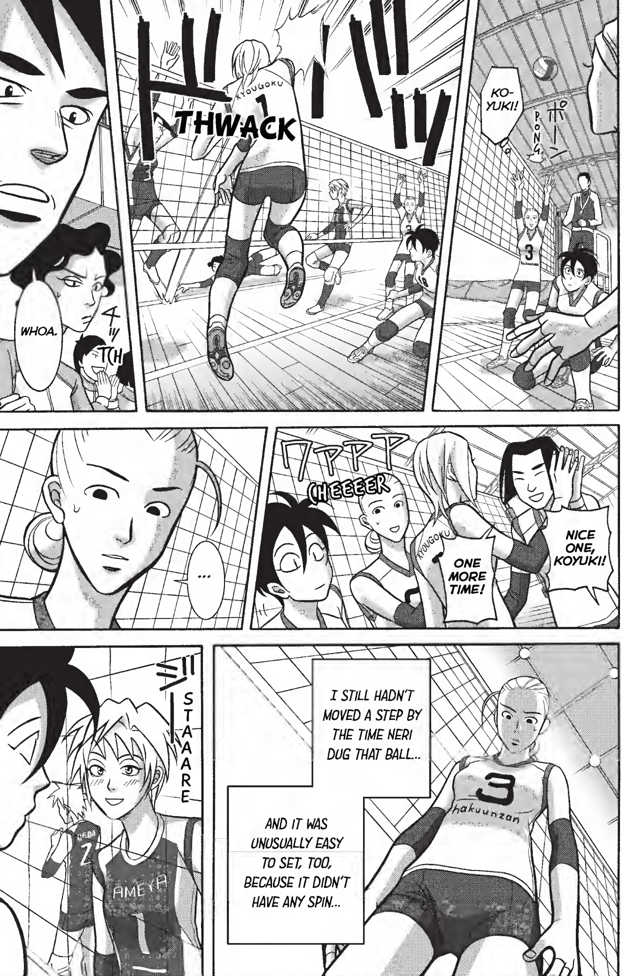

STARE
?
LOOK, EVERYONE! IT'S KOYUKI-SAN FROM THE JAPAN NATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM! SHE'S SO PRETTY! ♥ HER BOOBS ARE SO BIG! ♥
キャーッ
OOOOOH!
C-CAN I GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH?
DOES SHE NOT EVEN REALIZE SHE'S A CELEBRITY?
I DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO BE LIKE THIS...
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
RUMIKO! RUMIKOOO!
I'M DYING TO LEAP INTO THE COURT RIGHT NOW!
KOYUKI-CHAAAN!
RAAAAH
うおおお
hakuunzan

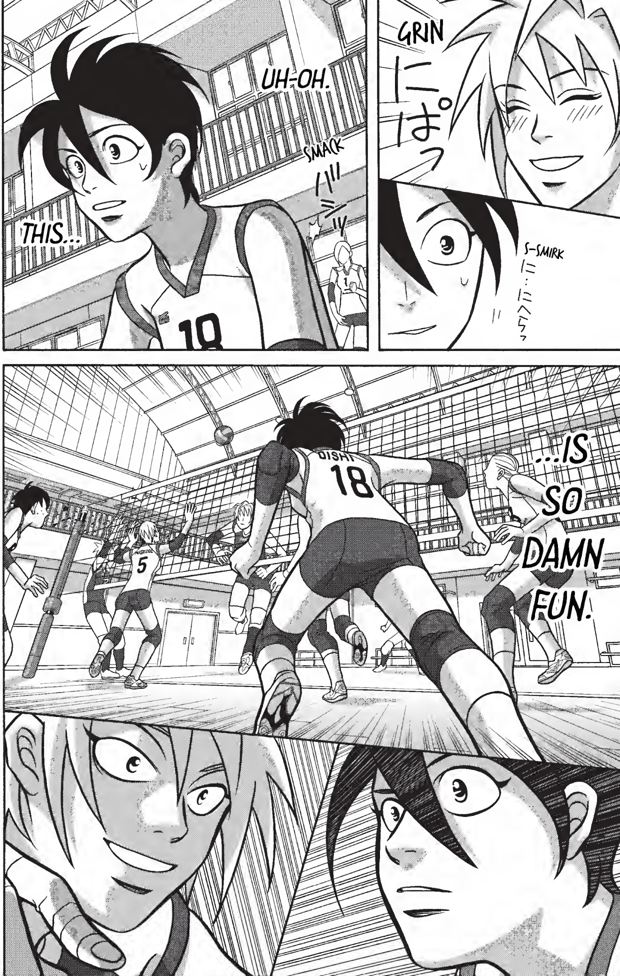

HAKUUN-ZAN!
GO, TEAM, GOOOO!
LET'S GO!
YEAH!
GOOD LUCK ...
...NERI.
RUMI-TAAAN!
HERE IT GOES.
ピ
FWEEEET

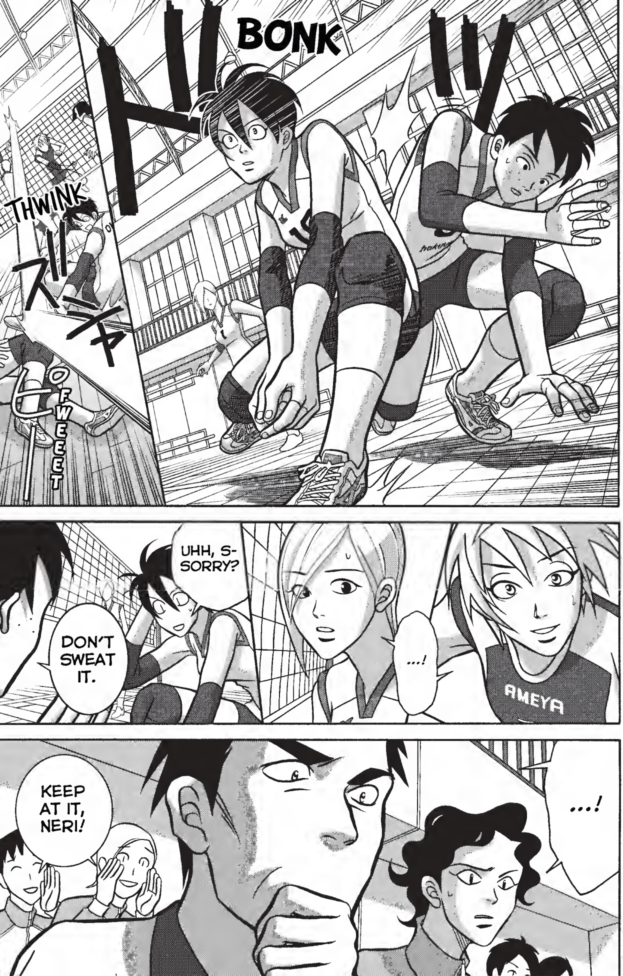

WHACK
AZUMA 5
OH, NOOO...
STRAIGHT TO NERI...
OISHI 18
BUMP
...!
PONG
THWACK
CHEER
NICE ONE, KOYUKI-CHAN!
NICE PASS, NERI!
IT WAS JUST LUCK.

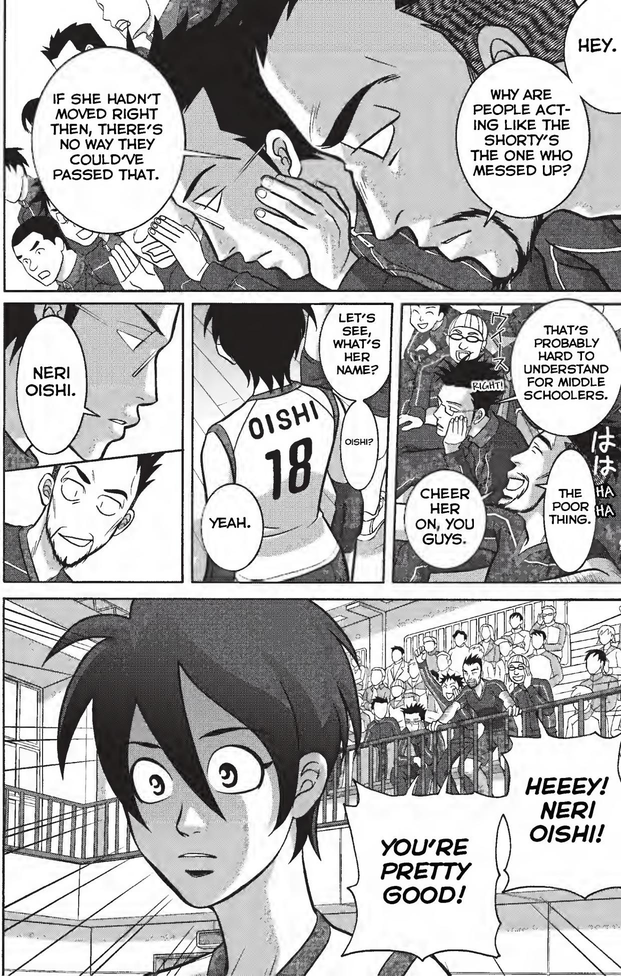

THANK GOD WE MANAGED TO RETURN THAT ONE.
I HAVEN'T PLAYED IN A REAL GAME SINCE MY SIXTH YEAR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SO I'M PRETTY NERVOUS.
SMACK
THMP
PONG
FWUMP
EEEEE! ♥ I BLOCKED KOYUKI-SAN'S ATTACK!
SQUEAL
CHEEEER
SHE'S FAST!

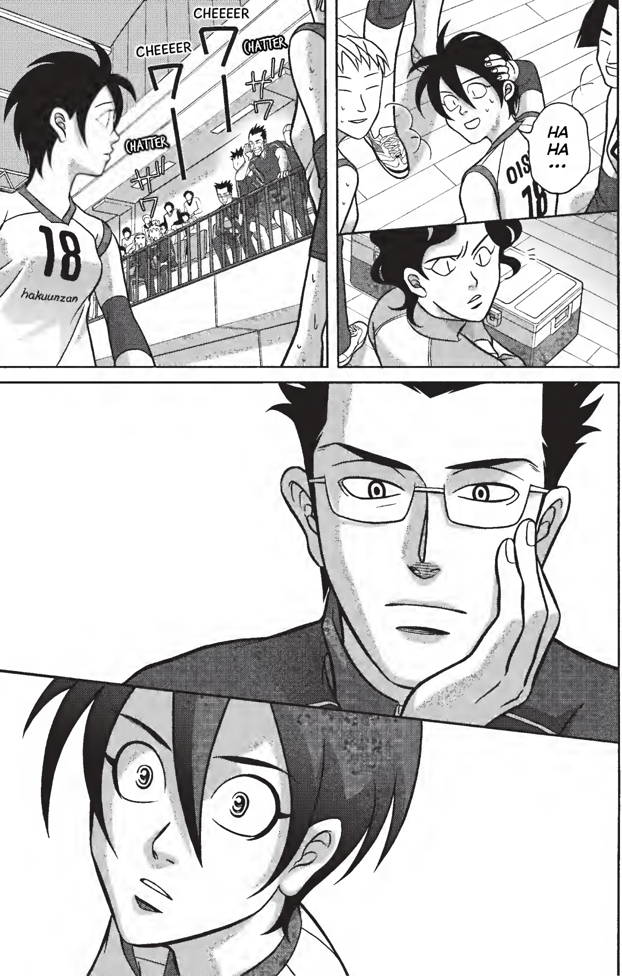

YOU SHOULD HIT OFF THE NET WITH A WIDE ARC AGAINST AMEYA.
MAHO, TRY SETTING A LITTLE FARTHER FROM THE NET.
OKAY.
FWEET
OH!
DON'T MIND IF I DO! ♥
THWACK
STRAIGHT FOR THE KILL!
ACK!
THMP
THMP

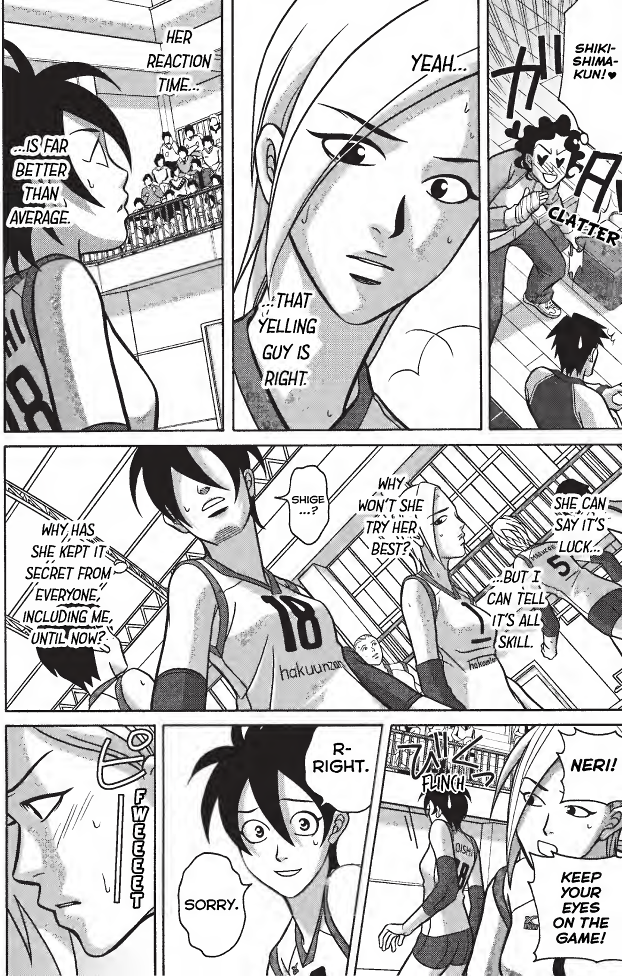

KO-YUKI!
PONG
THWACK
WHOA.
TCH
NICE ONE, KOYUKI!
ONE MORE TIME!
CHEEEER
...
I STILL HADN'T MOVED A STEP BY THE TIME NERI DUG THAT BALL...
AND IT WAS UNUSUALLY EASY TO SET, TOO, BECAUSE IT DIDN'T HAVE ANY SPIN...
STAAAARE

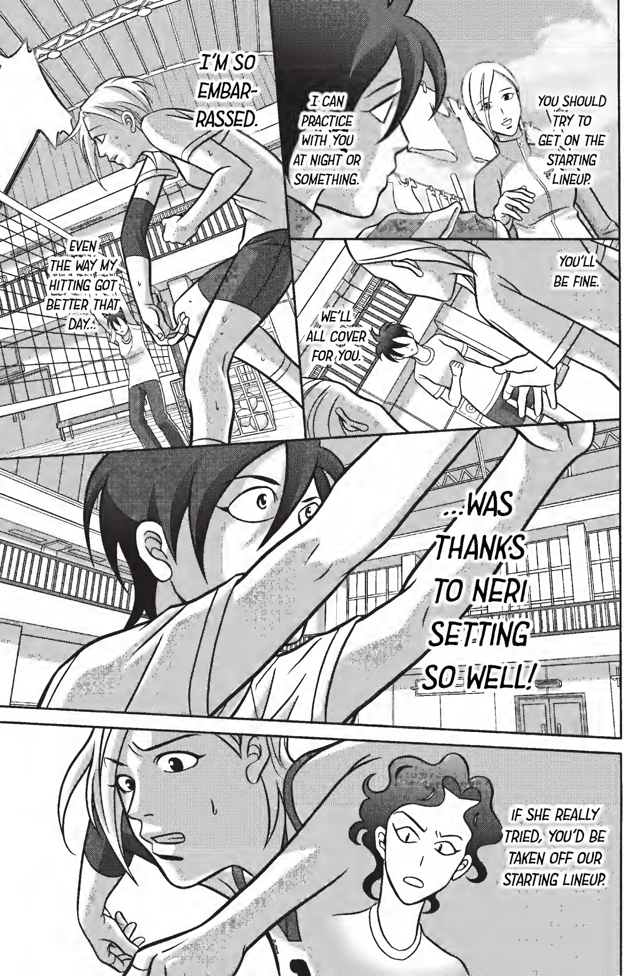

GRIN
にぱっ
S-SMIRK
に…にへらっ
UH-OH.
SMACK
バシッ
THIS...
18
OISHI
18
MASUZOE
5
...IS SO DAMN FUN.

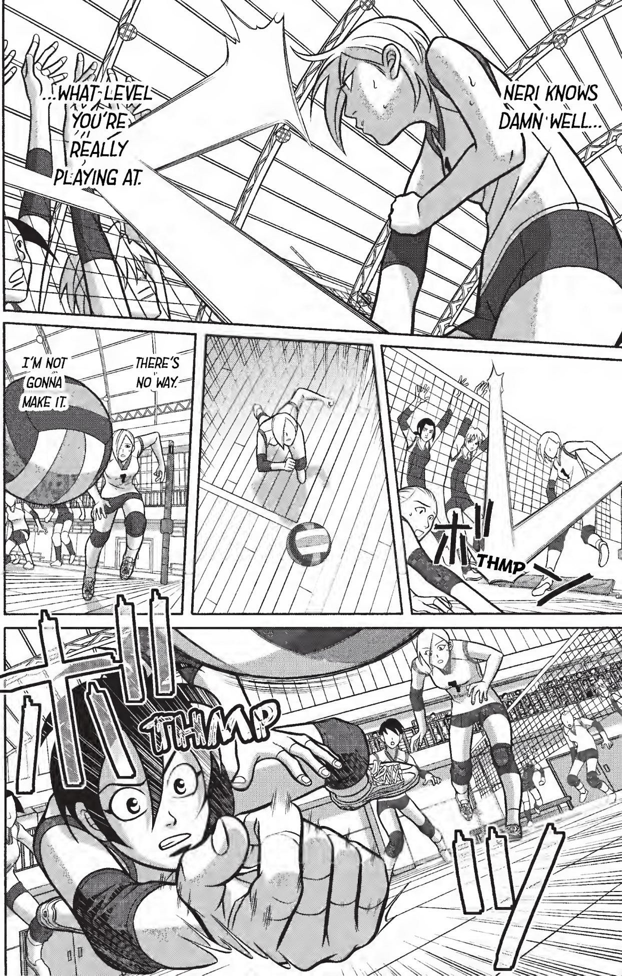

BONK
トッ
THWINK
ズシャ
ピー
FWEEET
…!
UHH, S-SORRY?
DON'T SWEAT IT.
AMEYA
…!
KEEP AT IT, NERI!

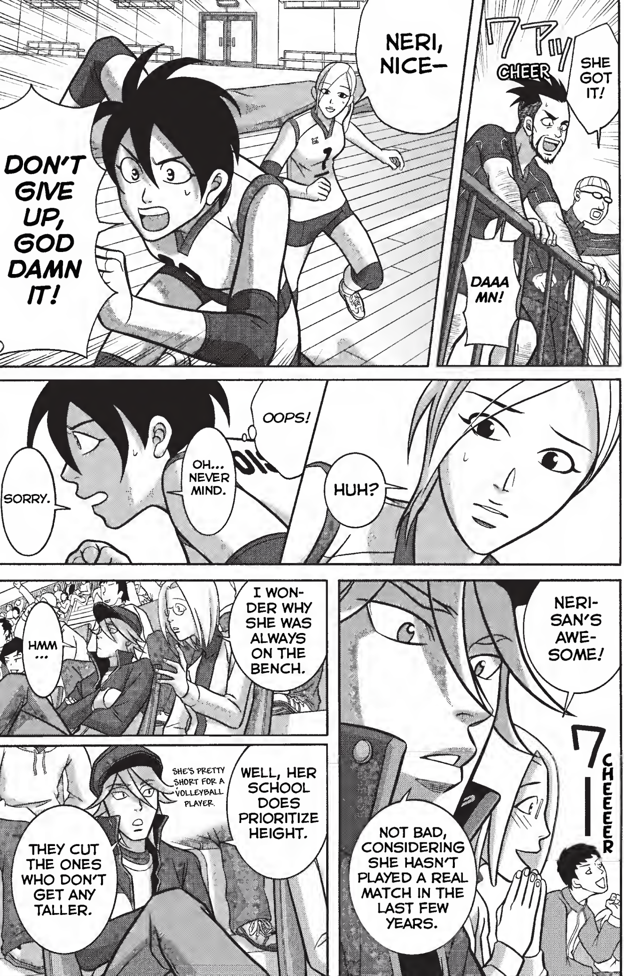

HEY.
WHY ARE PEOPLE ACTING LIKE THE SHORTY'S THE ONE WHO MESSED UP?
IF SHE HADN'T MOVED RIGHT THEN, THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD'VE PASSED THAT.
ウィース
RIGHT!
THAT'S PROBABLY HARD TO UNDERSTAND FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS.
はは HA HA
THE POOR THING.
CHEER HER ON, YOU GUYS.
LET'S SEE, WHAT'S HER NAME?
OISHI?
OISHI 18
YEAH.
NERI OISHI.
HEEEY! NERI OISHI!
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD!

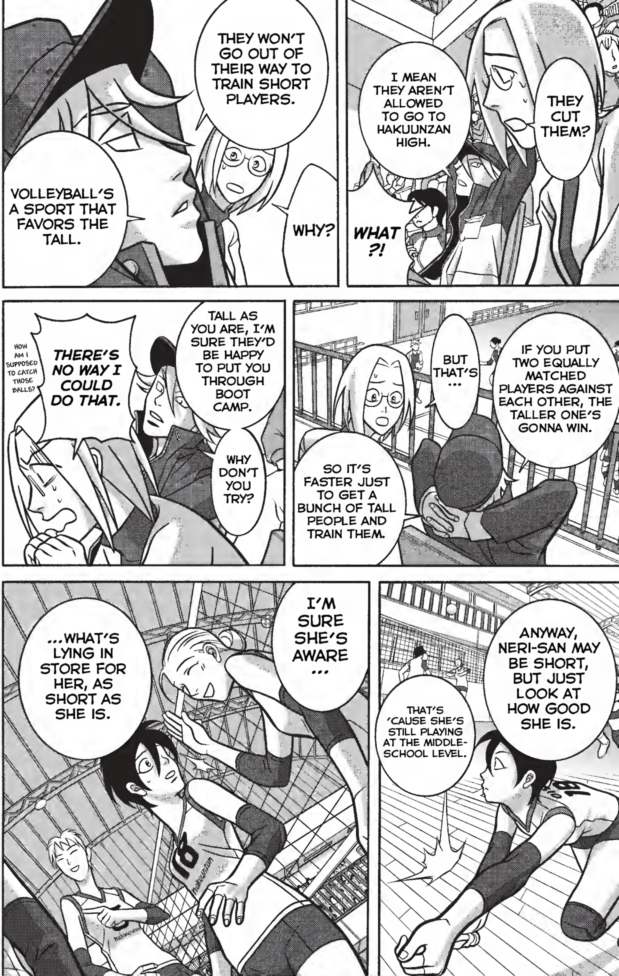

HA HA ...
CHEEEER
CHEEEER
CHATTER
CHATTER
18
hakuunzan
OIS
18

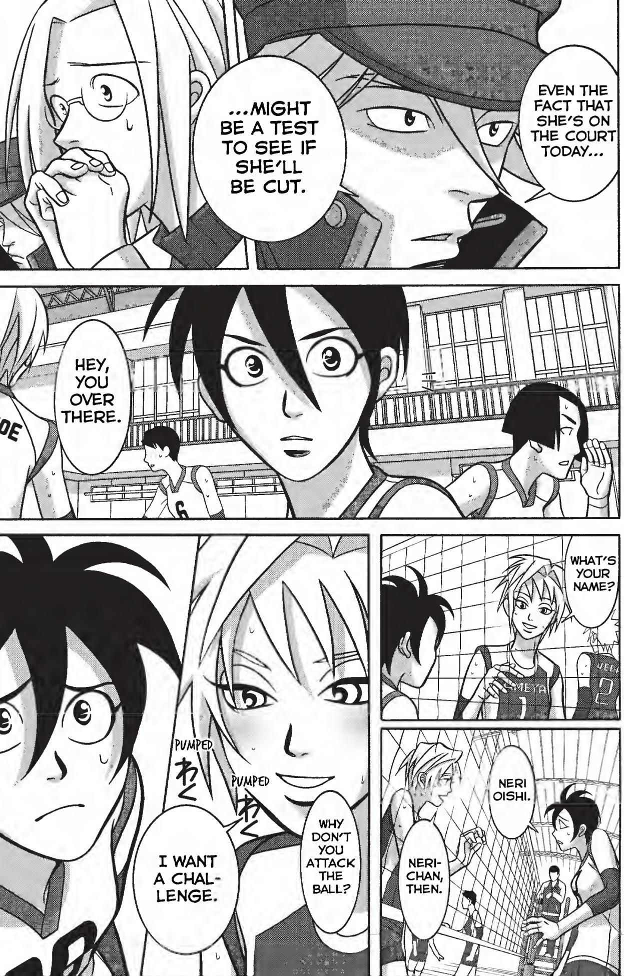

SHIKI-SHIMA-KUN!♥
CLATTER
YEAH...
...THAT YELLING GUY IS RIGHT.
HER REACTION TIME...
...IS FAR BETTER THAN AVERAGE.
SHE CAN SAY IT'S LUCK...
...BUT I CAN TELL IT'S ALL SKILL.
WHY WON'T SHE TRY HER BEST?
SHIGE ...?
WHY HAS SHE KEPT IT SECRET FROM EVERYONE, INCLUDING ME, UNTIL NOW?
18
hakuunzan
5
NERI!
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE GAME!
びくっ
FLINCH
R-RIGHT.
SORRY.
ぴ
FWEEEEET

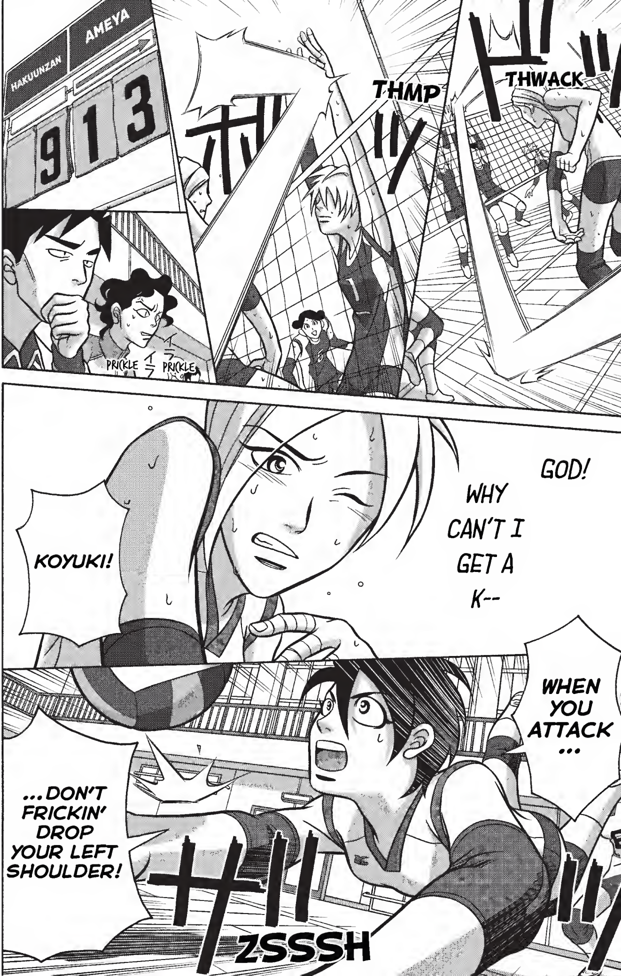

YOU SHOULD TRY TO GET ON THE STARTING LINEUP.
I CAN PRACTICE WITH YOU AT NIGHT OR SOMETHING.
YOU'LL BE FINE.
WE'LL ALL COVER FOR YOU.
I'M SO EMBARRASSED.
EVEN THE WAY MY HITTING GOT BETTER THAT DAY...
...WAS THANKS TO NERI SETTING SO WELL!
IF SHE REALLY TRIED, YOU'D BE TAKEN OFF OUR STARTING LINEUP.

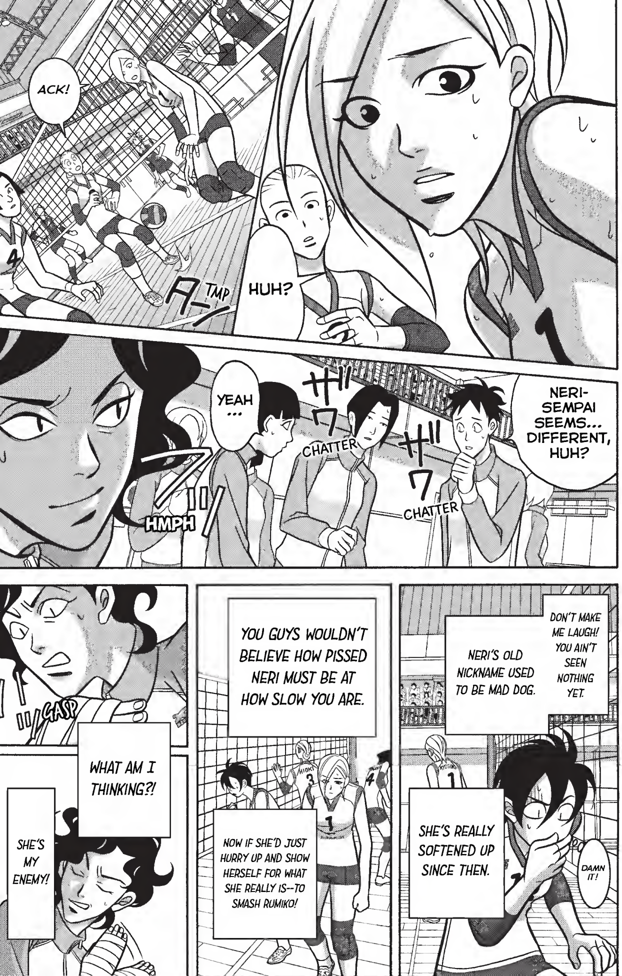

NERI KNOWS DAMN WELL...
...WHAT LEVEL YOU'RE REALLY PLAYING AT.
ホ!
THMP
THERE'S NO WAY.
I'M NOT GONNA MAKE IT.
ホ!!
THMP

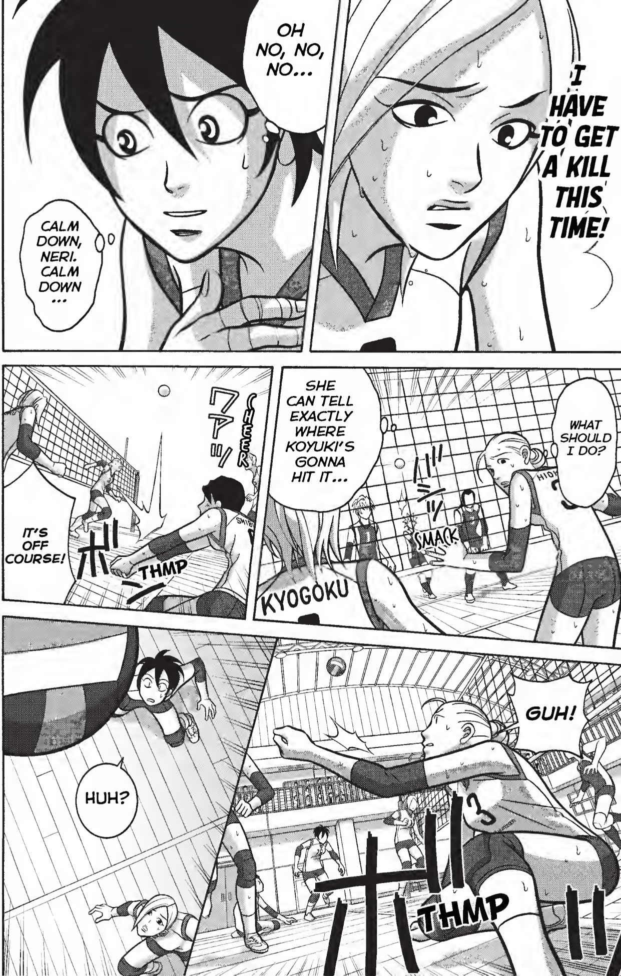

CHEER
SHE GOT IT!
DAAAMN!
NERI, NICE—
DON'T GIVE UP, GOD DAMN IT!
OOPS!
HUH?
OH... NEVER MIND.
SORRY.
NERI-SAN'S AWESOME!
CHEEEER
NOT BAD, CONSIDERING SHE HASN'T PLAYED A REAL MATCH IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.
I WONDER WHY SHE WAS ALWAYS ON THE BENCH.
HMM...
WELL, HER SCHOOL DOES PRIORITIZE HEIGHT.
SHE'S PRETTY SHORT FOR A VOLLEYBALL PLAYER.
THEY CUT THE ONES WHO DON'T GET ANY TALLER.

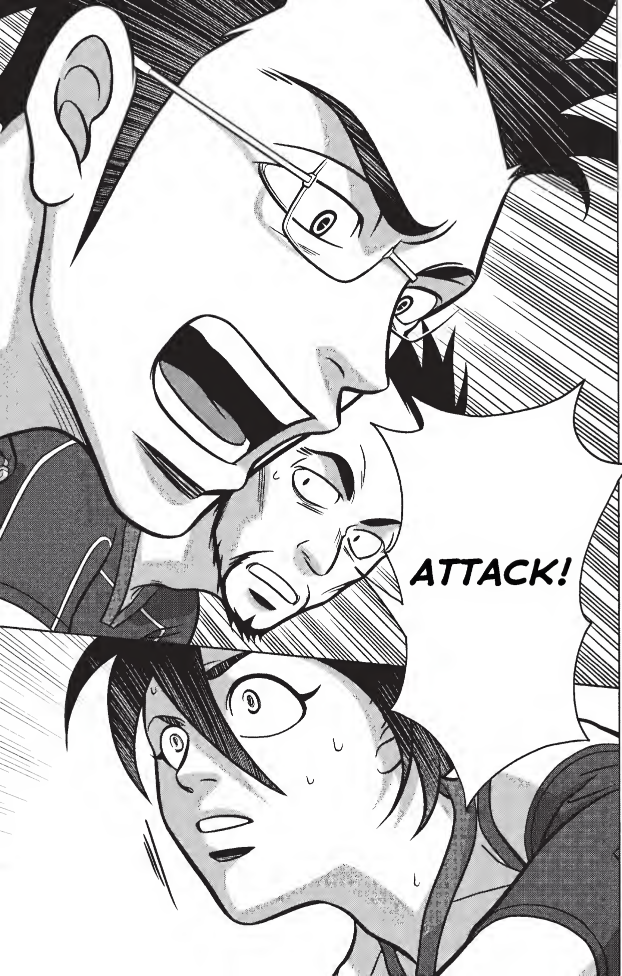

THEY CUT THEM?
I MEAN THEY AREN'T ALLOWED TO GO TO HAKUUNZAN HIGH.
WHAT ?!
THEY WON'T GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO TRAIN SHORT PLAYERS.
WHY?
VOLLEYBALL'S A SPORT THAT FAVORS THE TALL.
IF YOU PUT TWO EQUALLY MATCHED PLAYERS AGAINST EACH OTHER, THE TALLER ONE'S GONNA WIN.
BUT THAT'S ...
SO IT'S FASTER JUST TO GET A BUNCH OF TALL PEOPLE AND TRAIN THEM.
TALL AS YOU ARE, I'M SURE THEY'D BE HAPPY TO PUT YOU THROUGH BOOT CAMP.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY?
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD DO THAT.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CATCH THOSE BALLS?
ANYWAY, NERI-SAN MAY BE SHORT, BUT JUST LOOK AT HOW GOOD SHE IS.
THAT'S 'CAUSE SHE'S STILL PLAYING AT THE MIDDLE-SCHOOL LEVEL.
18
I'M SURE SHE'S AWARE ...
...WHAT'S LYING IN STORE FOR HER, AS SHORT AS SHE IS.
18
Hakuunzan

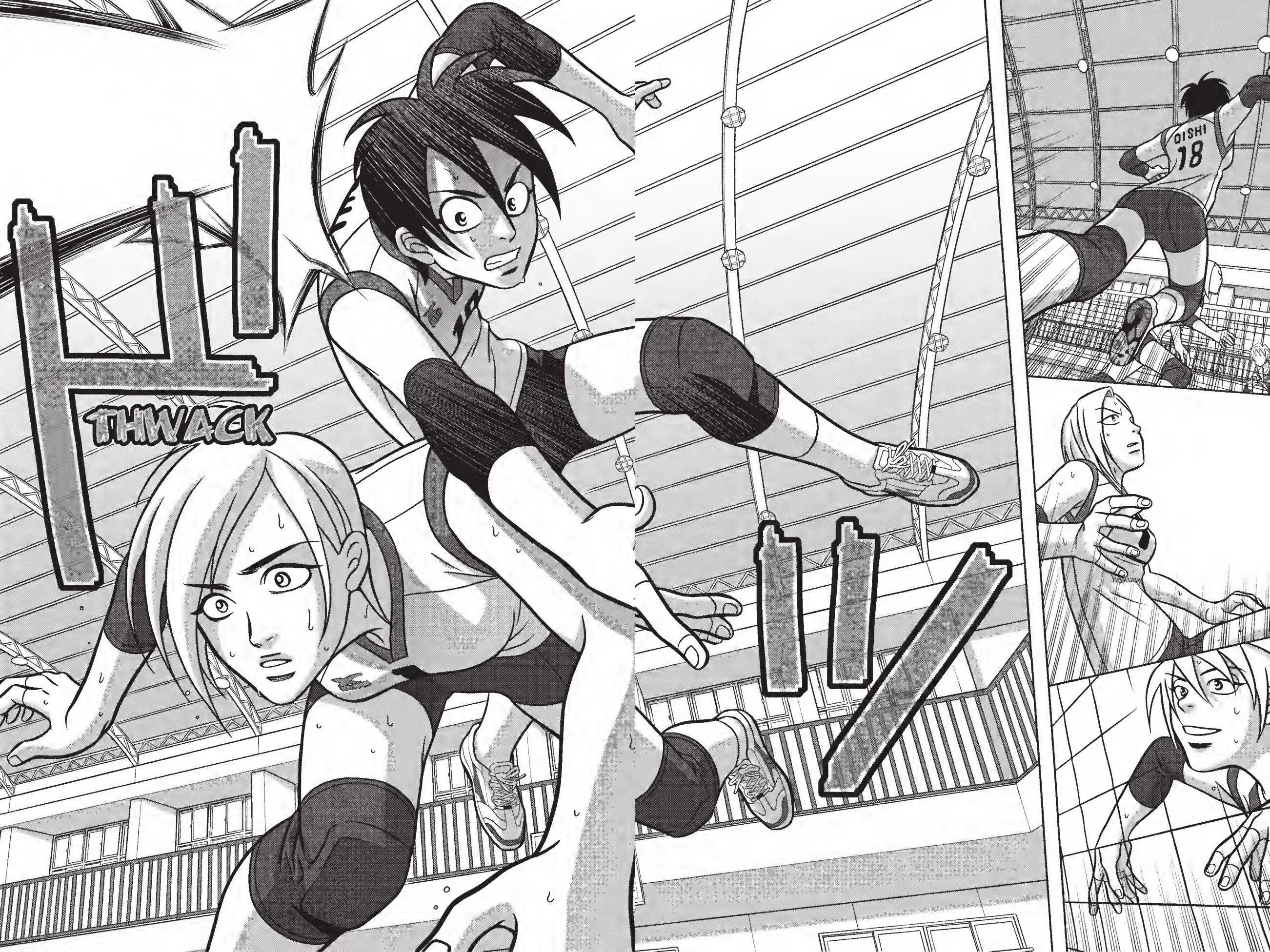

EVEN THE FACT THAT SHE'S ON THE COURT TODAY...
...MIGHT BE A TEST TO SEE IF SHE'LL BE CUT.
HEY, YOU OVER THERE.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
NERI OISHI.
NERI-CHAN, THEN.
PUMPED わく
PUMPED わく
WHY DON'T YOU ATTACK THE BALL?
I WANT A CHALLENGE.

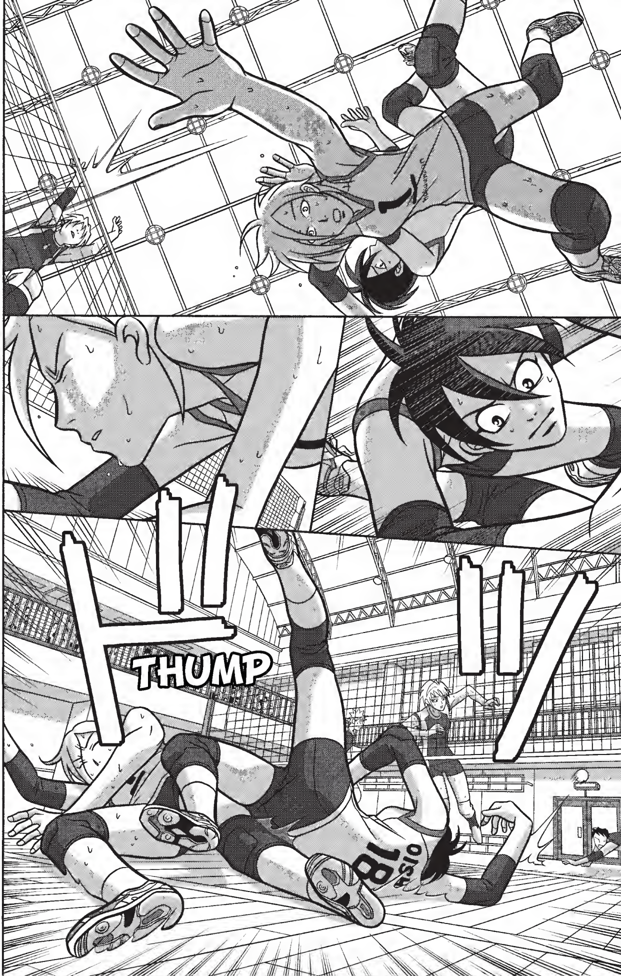

ドッ
THWACK
ボッ
THMP
AMEYA
HAKUUNZAN
9
13
イラ イラ
PRICKLE PRICKLE
GOD!
WHY CAN'T I GET A K--
KOYUKI!
WHEN YOU ATTACK...
...DON'T FRICKIN' DROP YOUR LEFT SHOULDER!
ザッ
ZSSSH

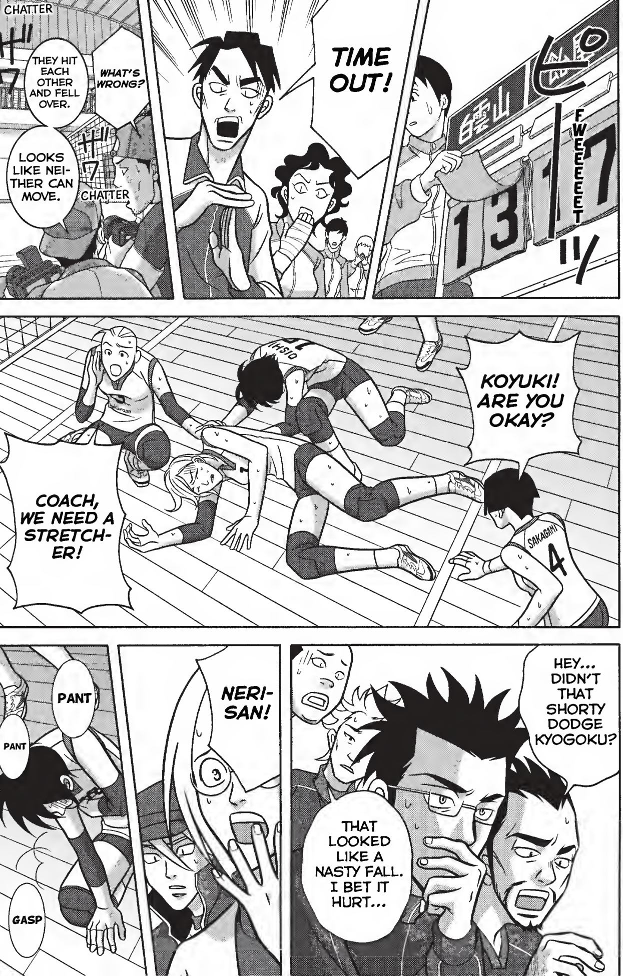

HUH?
TMP
ACK!
NERI-SEMPAI SEEMS... DIFFERENT, HUH?
CHATTER
CHATTER
YEAH...
HMPH
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET.
NERI'S OLD NICKNAME USED TO BE MAD DOG.
SHE'S REALLY SOFTENED UP SINCE THEN.
DAMN IT!
YOU GUYS WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW PISSED NERI MUST BE AT HOW SLOW YOU ARE.
NOW IF SHE'D JUST HURRY UP AND SHOW HERSELF FOR WHAT SHE REALLY IS--TO SMASH RUMIKO!
GASP
WHAT AM I THINKING?!
SHE'S MY ENEMY!

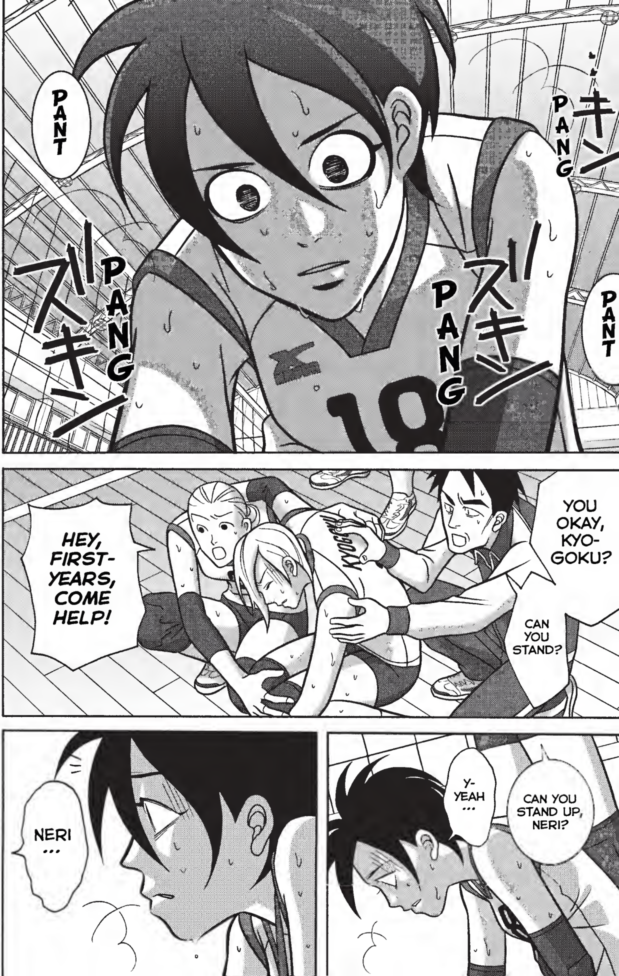

I HAVE TO GET A KILL THIS TIME!
OH NO, NO, NO...
CALM DOWN, NERI. CALM DOWN ...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SHE CAN TELL EXACTLY WHERE KOYUKI'S GONNA HIT IT...
バシッ SMACK
KYOGOKU
ワァッ CHEER
IT'S OFF COURSE!
ボン THMP
GUH!
ボン THMP
HUH?

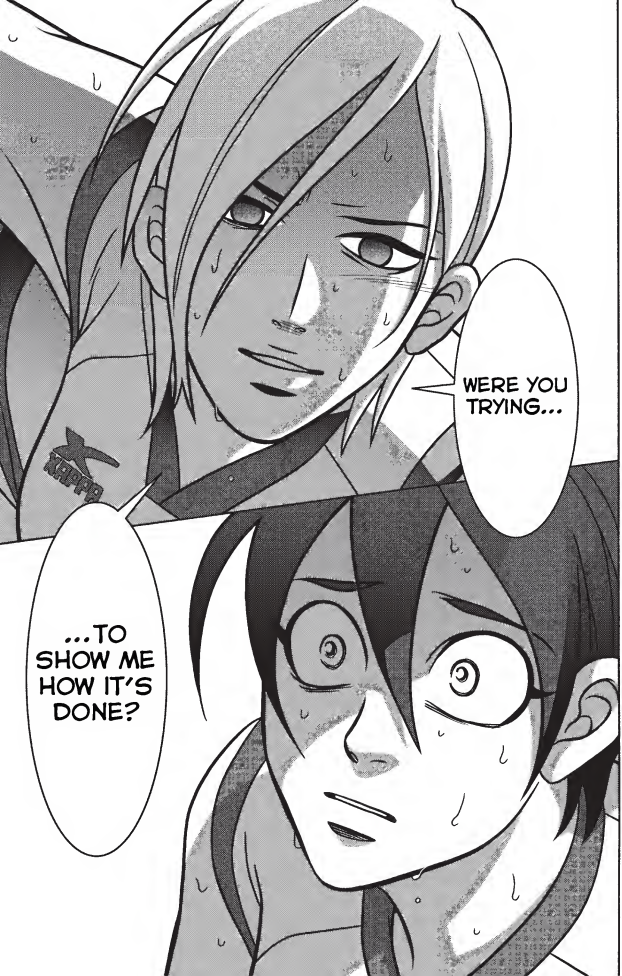

ATTACK!

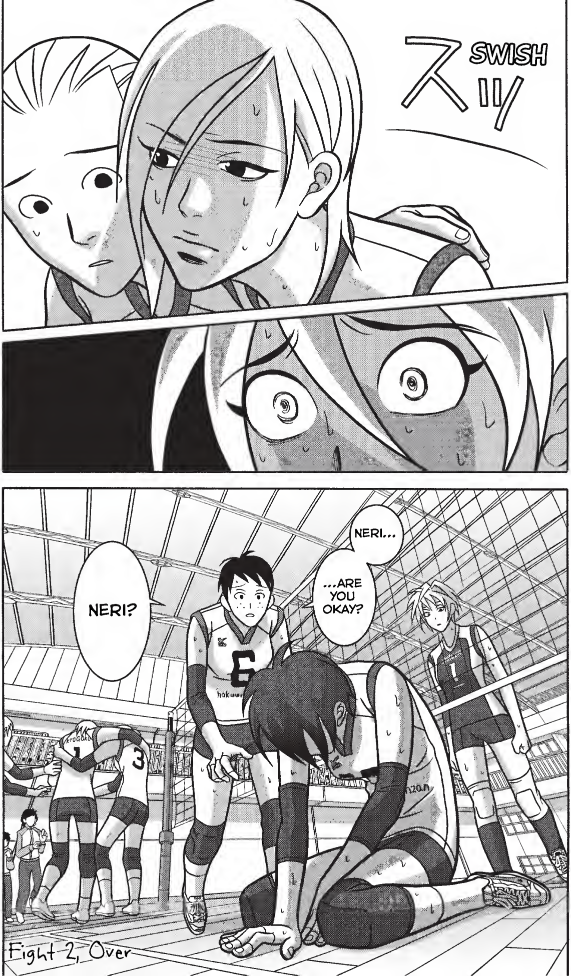

THWACK
OISHI
18

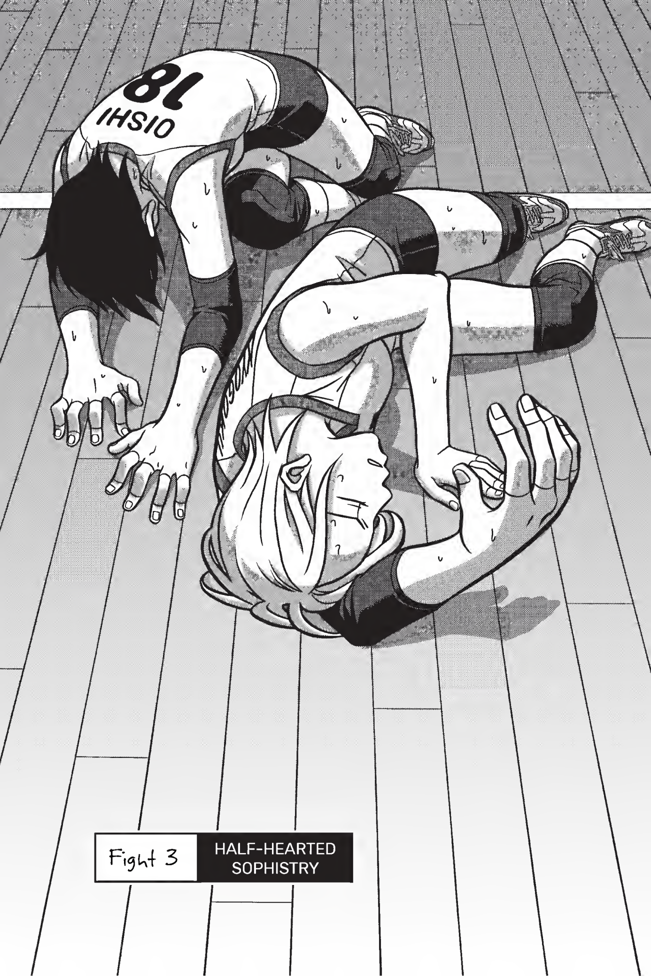

ドッ
THUMP


白雲山
13
17
FWEEEEET
TIME OUT!
WHAT'S WRONG?
THEY HIT EACH OTHER AND FELL OVER.
LOOKS LIKE NEITHER CAN MOVE.
CHATTER
CHATTER
KOYUKI! ARE YOU OKAY?
COACH, WE NEED A STRETCHER!
SAKAGAMI
4
HEY... DIDN'T THAT SHORTY DODGE KYOGOKU?
THAT LOOKED LIKE A NASTY FALL. I BET IT HURT...
NERI-SAN!
PANT
PANT
GASP


キン
PANG
PANT
ズキン
PANG
ズキン
PANG
PANT
YOU OKAY, KYOGOKU?
KYOGOKU
CAN YOU STAND?
HEY, FIRST-YEARS, COME HELP!
CAN YOU STAND UP, NERI?
Y-YEAH…
NERI…

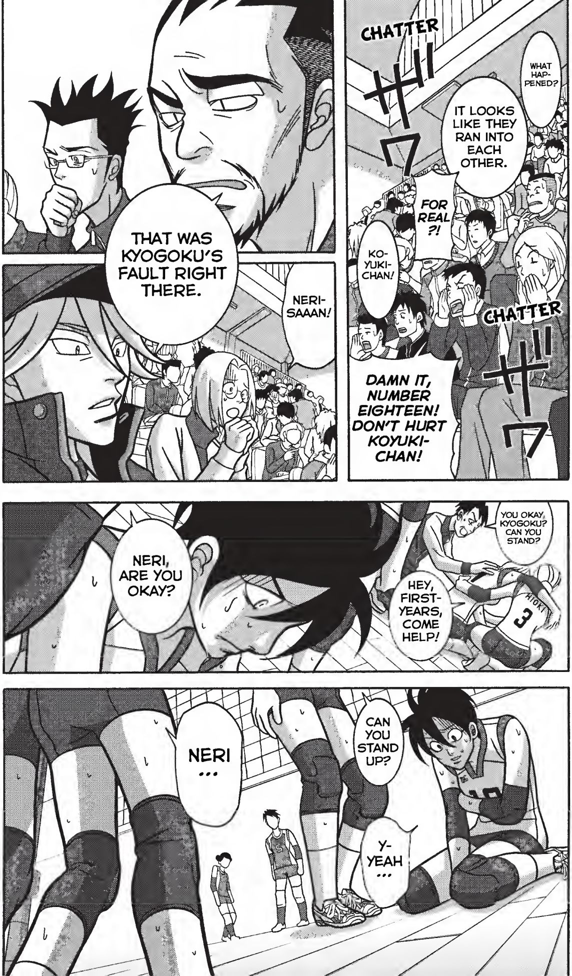

WERE YOU TRYING...
...TO SHOW ME HOW IT'S DONE?
KAPPA

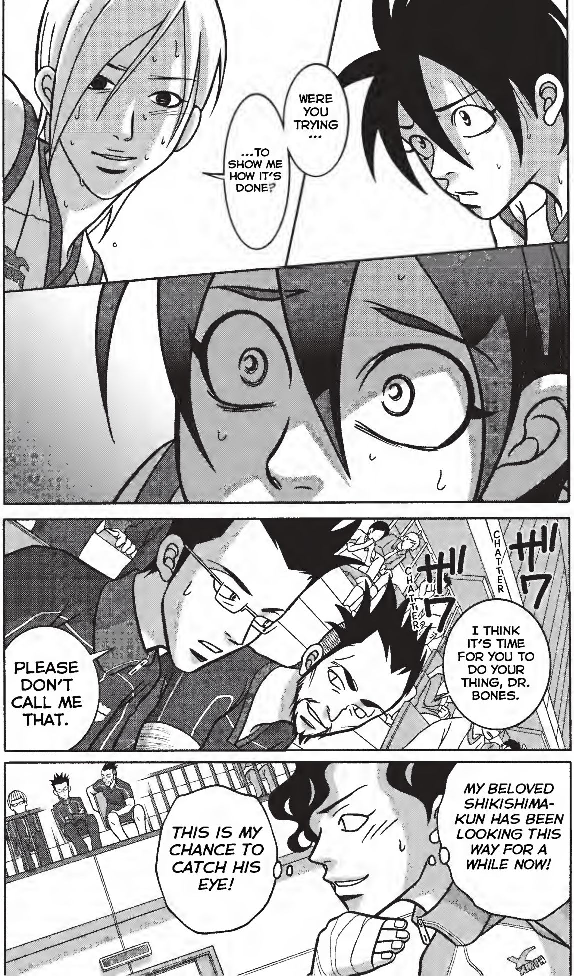

スッ
SWISH
NERI...
...ARE YOU OKAY?
NERI?
Fight 2, Over

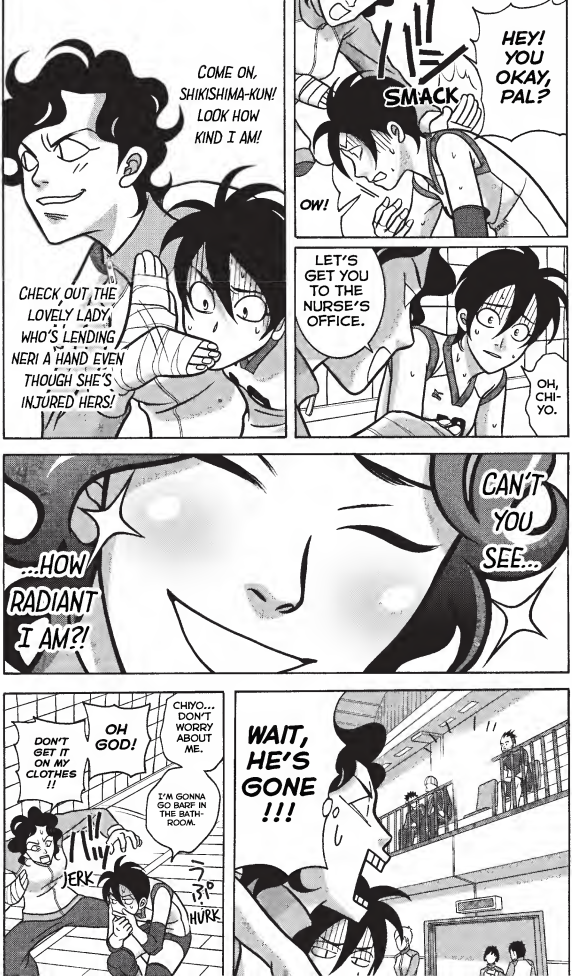


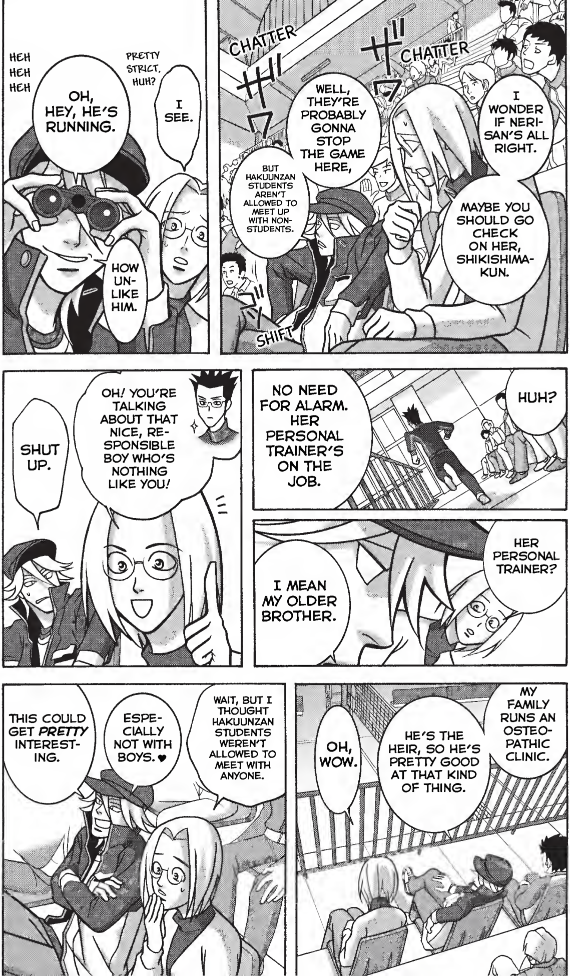
## Fight 3

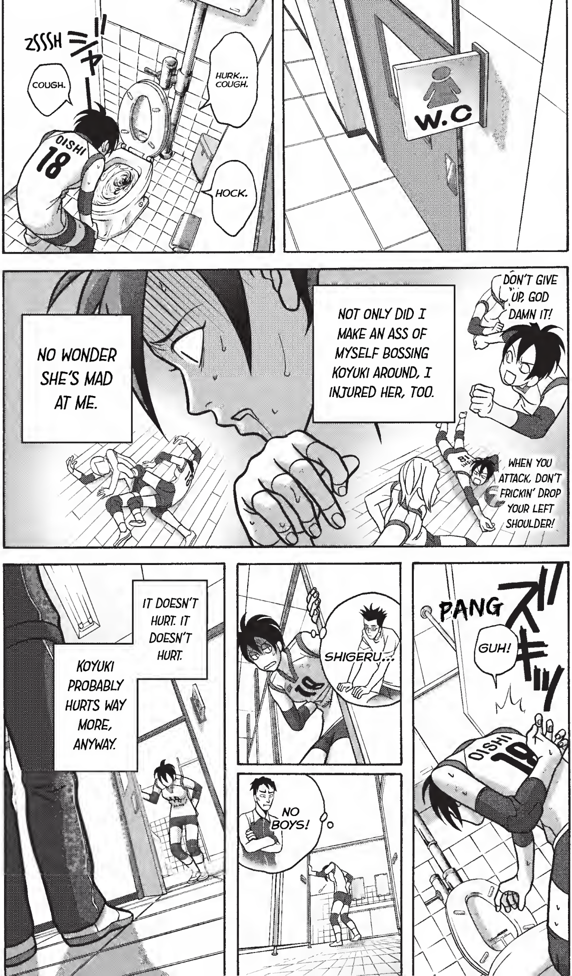
## HALF-HEARTED SOPHISTRY

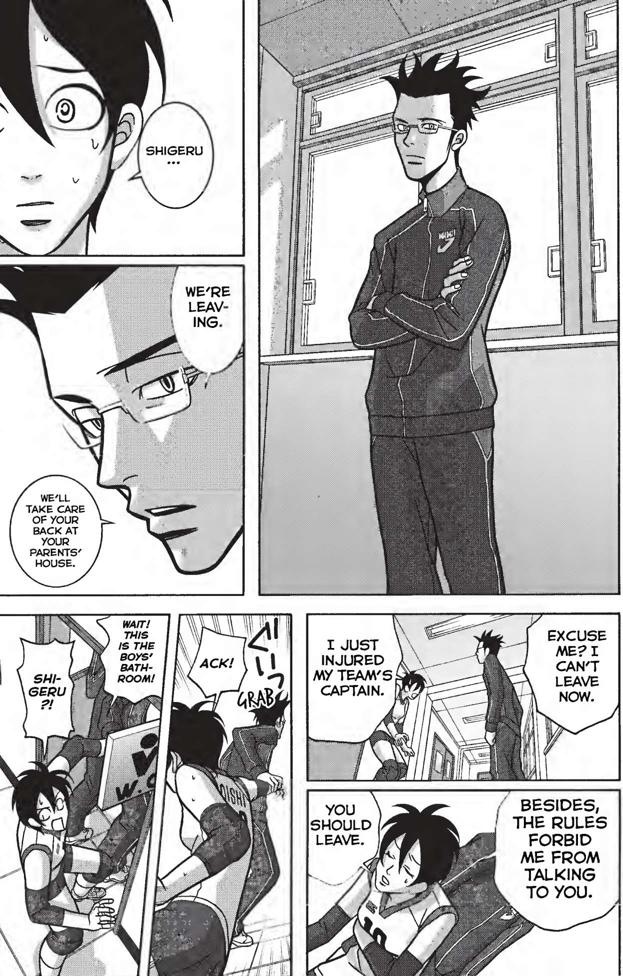

CHATTER
ザワ
WHAT HAP-PENED?
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY RAN INTO EACH OTHER.
FOR REAL?!
KO-YUKI-CHAN!
CHATTER
ザワ
DAMN IT, NUMBER EIGHTEEN! DON'T HURT KOYUKI-CHAN!
THAT WAS KYOGOKU'S FAULT RIGHT THERE.
NERI-SAAAN!
YOU OKAY, KYOGOKU? CAN YOU STAND?
HEY, FIRST-YEARS, COME HELP!
HIOKI
3
NERI, ARE YOU OKAY?
CAN YOU STAND UP?
NERI...
Y-YEAH...

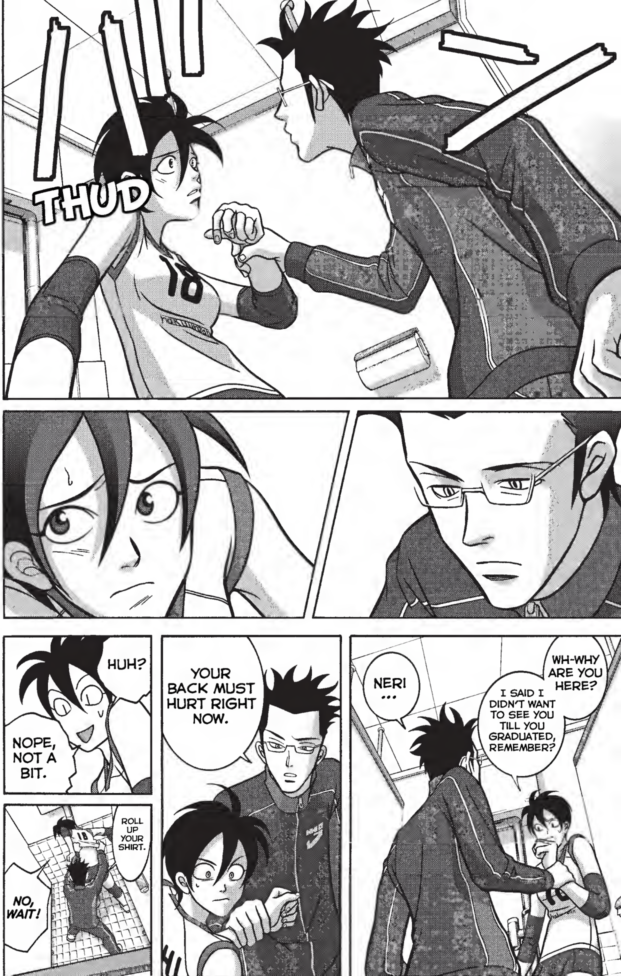

WERE YOU TRYING ...
...TO SHOW ME HOW IT'S DONE?
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
I THINK IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO DO YOUR THING, DR. BONES.
PLEASE DON'T CALL ME THAT.
MY BELOVED SHIKISHIMA-KUN HAS BEEN LOOKING THIS WAY FOR A WHILE NOW!
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO CATCH HIS EYE!

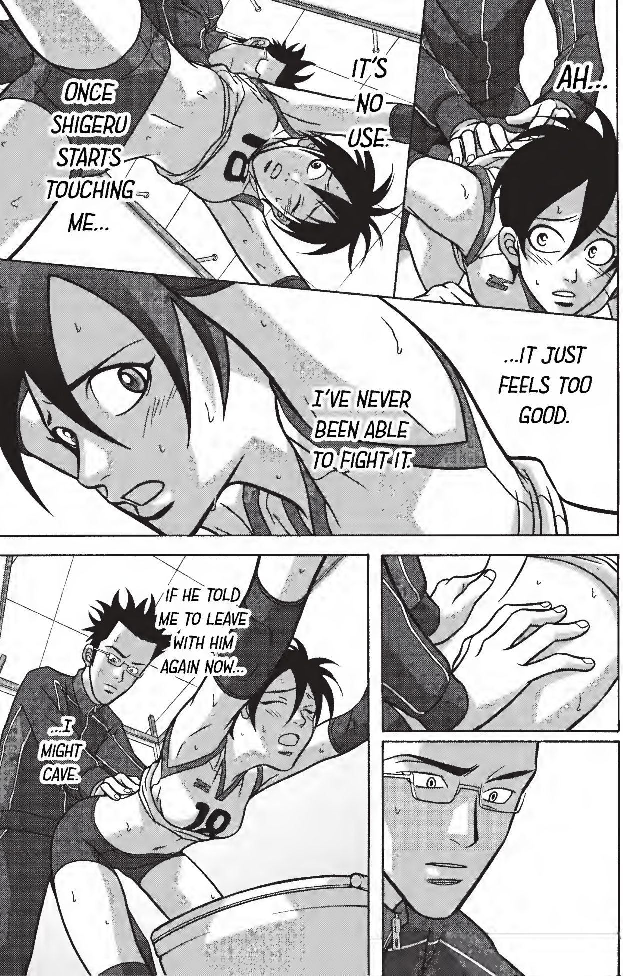

COME ON, SHIKISHIMA-KUN! LOOK HOW KIND I AM!
CHECK OUT THE LOVELY LADY WHO'S LENDING NERI A HAND EVEN THOUGH SHE'S INJURED HERS!
HEY! YOU OKAY, PAL?
SMACK
OW!
LET'S GET YOU TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
OH, CHIYO.
CAN'T YOU SEE...
...HOW RADIANT I AM?!
CHIYO... DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
I'M GONNA GO BARF IN THE BATHROOM.
OH GOD!
DON'T GET IT ON MY CLOTHES!!
JERK
HURK
WAIT, HE'S GONE!!!

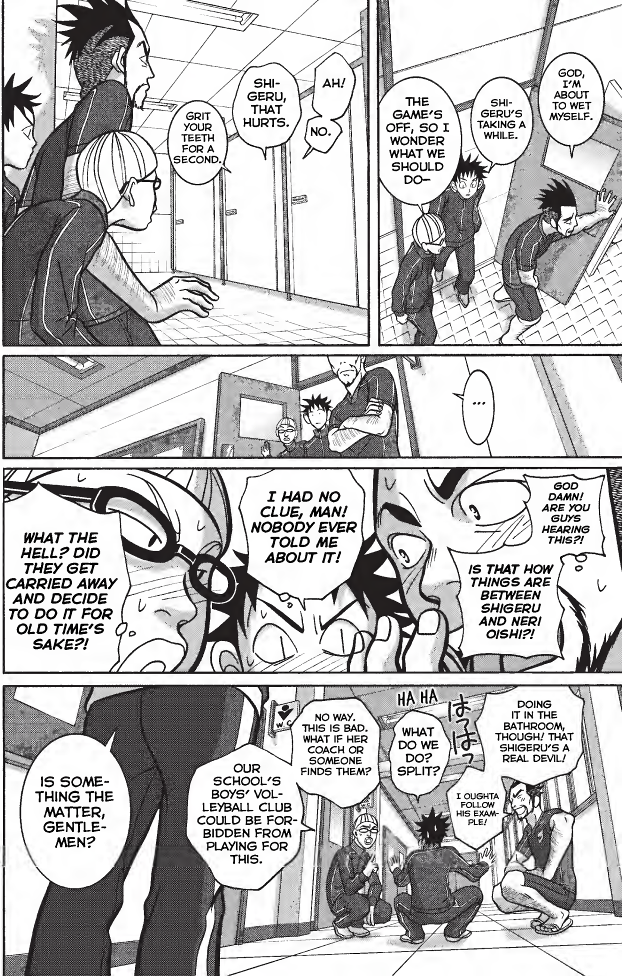

CHATTER
CHATTER
I WONDER IF NERI-SAN'S ALL RIGHT.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO CHECK ON HER, SHIKISHIMA-KUN.
WELL, THEY'RE PROBABLY GONNA STOP THE GAME HERE,
BUT HAKUUNZAN STUDENTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO MEET UP WITH NON-STUDENTS.
SHIFT
I SEE.
PRETTY STRICT, HUH?
HEH HEH HEH
OH, HEY, HE'S RUNNING.
HOW UNLIKE HIM.
NO NEED FOR ALARM. HER PERSONAL TRAINER'S ON THE JOB.
HUH?
HER PERSONAL TRAINER?
I MEAN MY OLDER BROTHER.
OH! YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT NICE, RESPONSIBLE BOY WHO'S NOTHING LIKE YOU!
SHUT UP.
MY FAMILY RUNS AN OSTEOPATHIC CLINIC.
HE'S THE HEIR, SO HE'S PRETTY GOOD AT THAT KIND OF THING.
OH, WOW.
WAIT, BUT I THOUGHT HAKUUNZAN STUDENTS WEREN'T ALLOWED TO MEET WITH ANYONE.
ESPECIALLY NOT WITH BOYS. ♥
THIS COULD GET *PRETTY* INTERESTING.

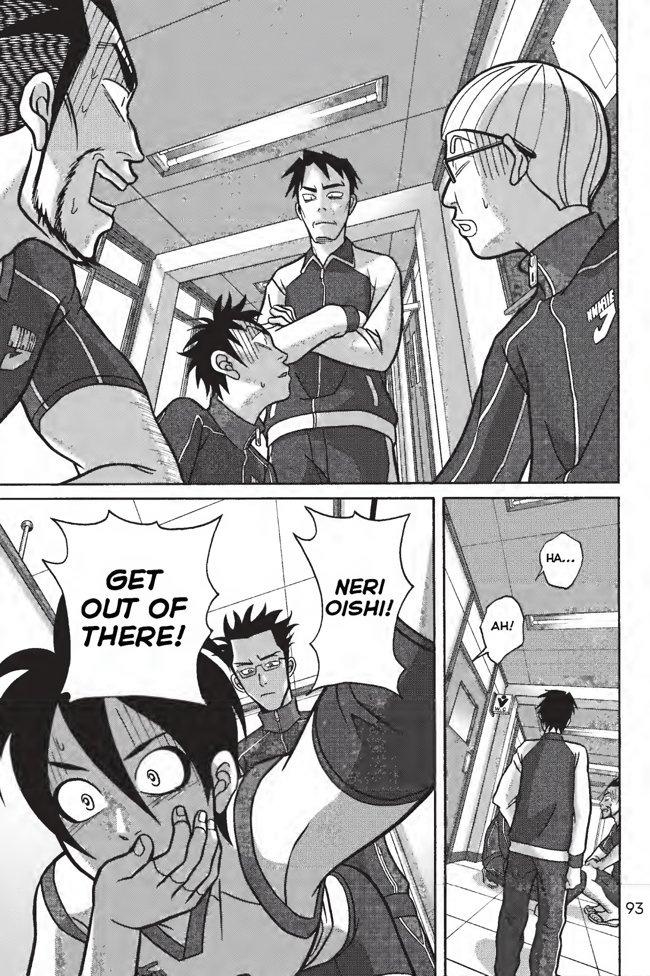

W.C
HURK... COUGH.
ZSSSH
COUGH.
HOCK.
DON'T GIVE UP, GOD DAMN IT!
WHEN YOU ATTACK, DON'T FRICKIN' DROP YOUR LEFT SHOULDER!
NOT ONLY DID I MAKE AN ASS OF MYSELF BOSSING KOYUKI AROUND, I INJURED HER, TOO.
NO WONDER SHE'S MAD AT ME.
PANG
GUH!
SHIGERU...
NO BOYS!
IT DOESN'T HURT. IT DOESN'T HURT.
KOYUKI PROBABLY HURTS WAY MORE, ANYWAY.

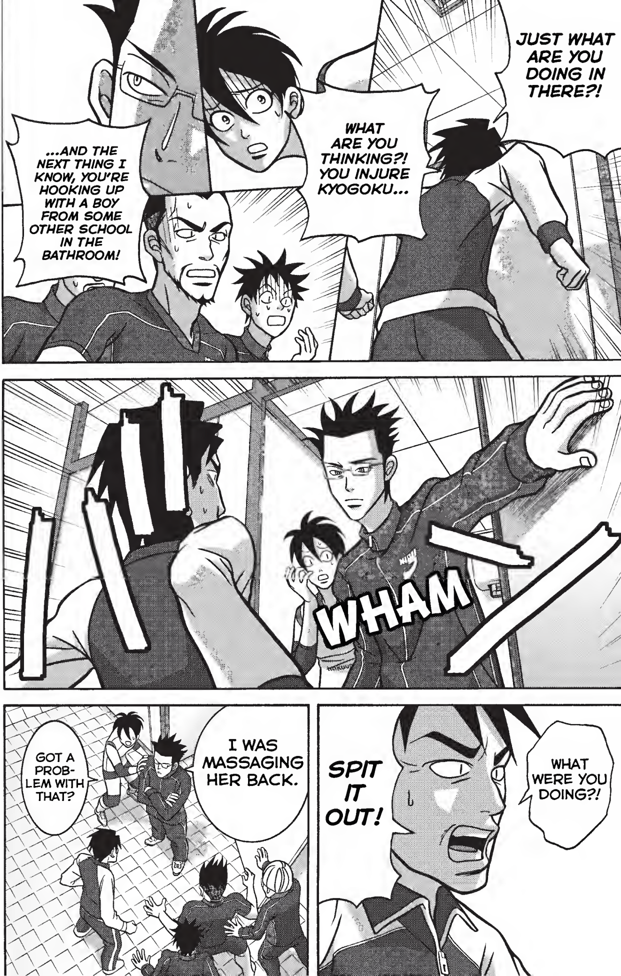

SHIGERU...
WE'RE LEAVING.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR BACK AT YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE.
EXCUSE ME? I CAN'T LEAVE NOW.
I JUST INJURED MY TEAM'S CAPTAIN.
BESIDES, THE RULES FORBID ME FROM TALKING TO YOU.
YOU SHOULD LEAVE.
ぐいっ
GRAB
ACK!
WAIT! THIS IS THE BOYS' BATHROOM!
SHIGERU?!

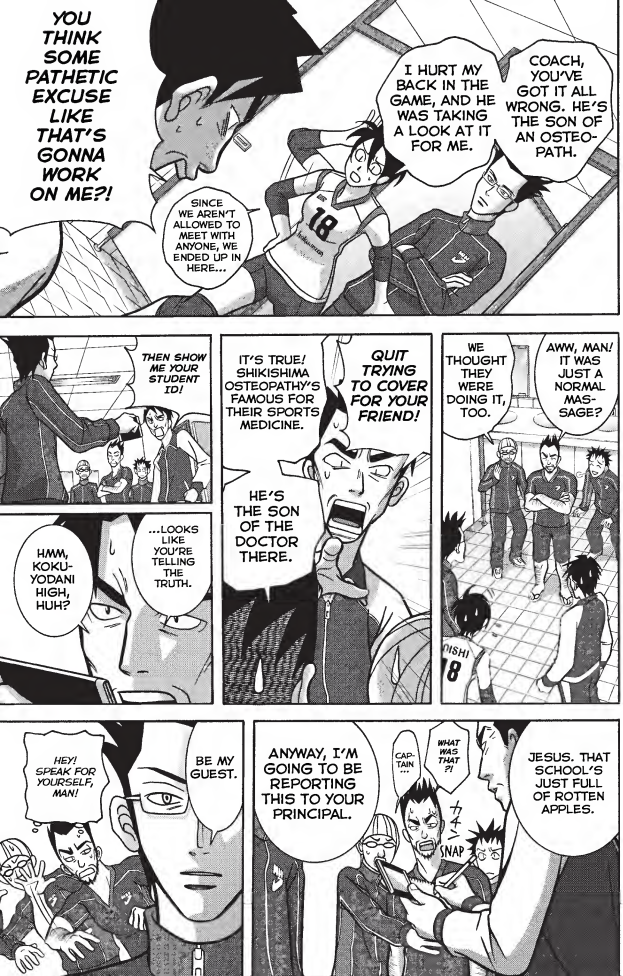

THUD
WH-WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I SAID I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE YOU TILL YOU GRADUATED, REMEMBER?
NERI ...
YOUR BACK MUST HURT RIGHT NOW.
HUH?
NOPE, NOT A BIT.
ROLL UP YOUR SHIRT.
NO, WAIT!

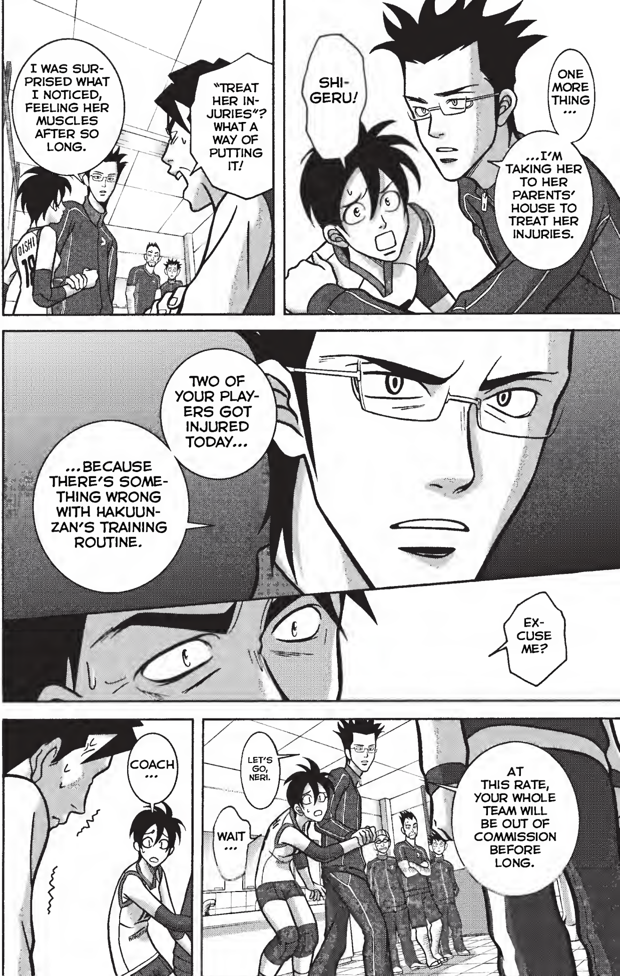

AH...
IT'S NO USE.
ONCE SHIGERU STARTS TOUCHING ME...
...IT JUST FEELS TOO GOOD.
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FIGHT IT.
IF HE TOLD ME TO LEAVE WITH HIM AGAIN NOW...
...I MIGHT CAVE.

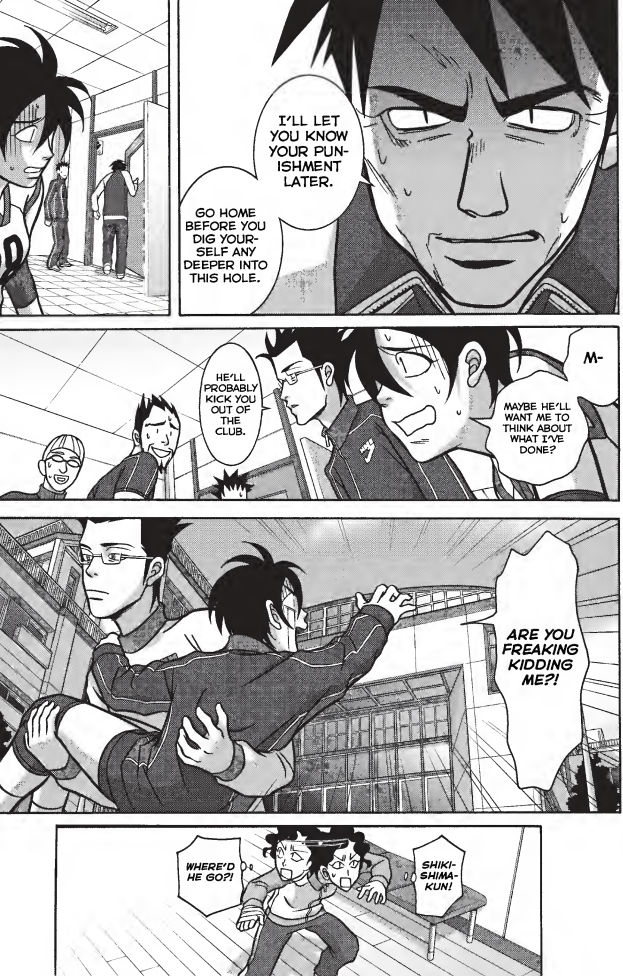

GOD, I'M ABOUT TO WET MYSELF.
SHIGERU'S TAKING A WHILE.
THE GAME'S OFF, SO I WONDER WHAT WE SHOULD DO—
AH!
NO.
SHIGERU, THAT HURTS.
GRIT YOUR TEETH FOR A SECOND.
...
GOD DAMN! ARE YOU GUYS HEARING THIS?!
IS THAT HOW THINGS ARE BETWEEN SHIGERU AND NERI OISHI?!
I HAD NO CLUE, MAN! NOBODY EVER TOLD ME ABOUT IT!
WHAT THE HELL? DID THEY GET CARRIED AWAY AND DECIDE TO DO IT FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE?!
DOING IT IN THE BATHROOM, THOUGH! THAT SHIGERU'S A REAL DEVIL!
I OUGHTA FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE!
HA HA
はっはっ
WHAT DO WE DO? SPLIT?
NO WAY. THIS IS BAD. WHAT IF HER COACH OR SOMEONE FINDS THEM?
OUR SCHOOL'S BOYS' VOLLEYBALL CLUB COULD BE FORBIDDEN FROM PLAYING FOR THIS.
W.C
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, GENTLEMEN?

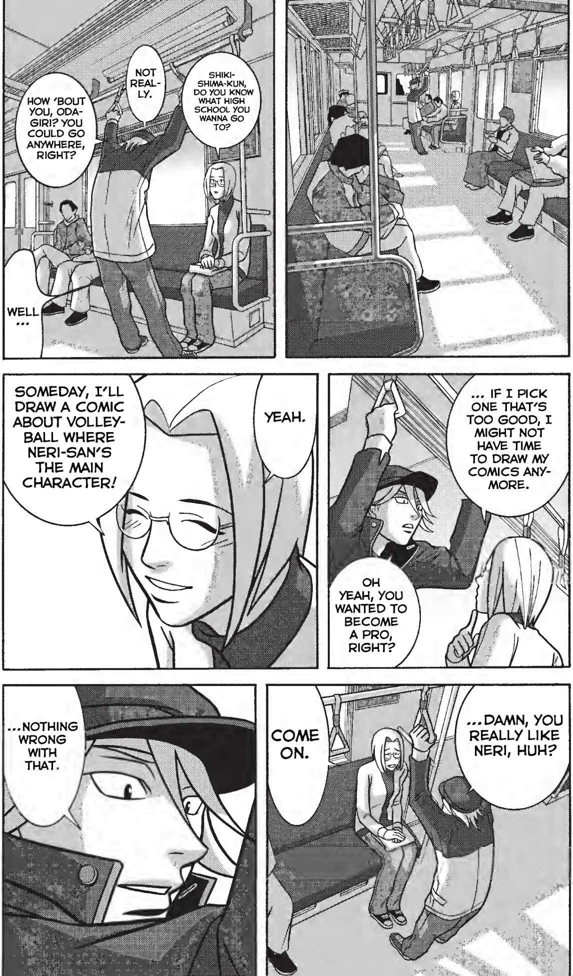

HA...
AH!
NERI OISHI!
GET OUT OF THERE!

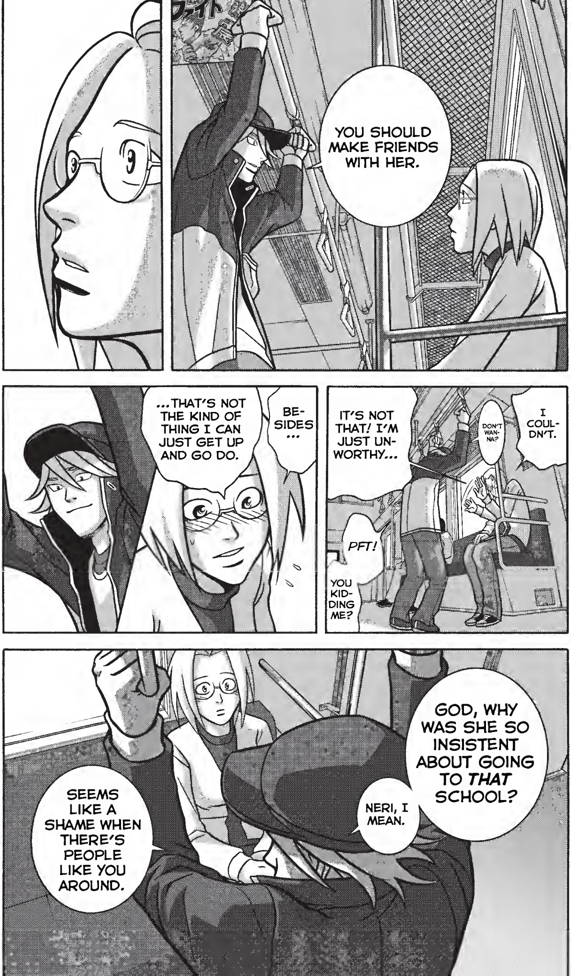

JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE?!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?! YOU INJURE KYOGOKU...
...AND THE NEXT THING I KNOW, YOU'RE HOOKING UP WITH A BOY FROM SOME OTHER SCHOOL IN THE BATHROOM!
WHAM
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?!
SPIT IT OUT!
I WAS MASSAGING HER BACK.
GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

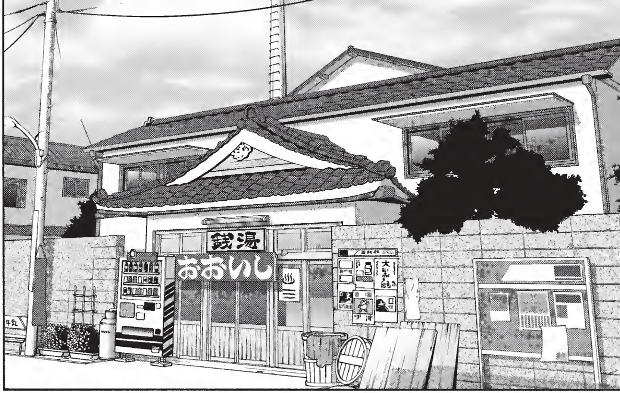

COACH, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG. HE'S THE SON OF AN OSTEOPATH.
I HURT MY BACK IN THE GAME, AND HE WAS TAKING A LOOK AT IT FOR ME.
SINCE WE AREN'T ALLOWED TO MEET WITH ANYONE, WE ENDED UP IN HERE...
*YOU THINK SOME PATHETIC EXCUSE LIKE THAT'S GONNA WORK ON ME?!*
AWW, MAN! IT WAS JUST A NORMAL MASSAGE?
WE THOUGHT THEY WERE DOING IT, TOO.
*QUIT TRYING TO COVER FOR YOUR FRIEND!*
IT'S TRUE! SHIKISHIMA OSTEOPATHY'S FAMOUS FOR THEIR SPORTS MEDICINE.
HE'S THE SON OF THE DOCTOR THERE.
*THEN SHOW ME YOUR STUDENT ID!*
...LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH.
HMM, KOKUYODANI HIGH, HUH?
JESUS. THAT SCHOOL'S JUST FULL OF ROTTEN APPLES.
*WHAT WAS THAT?!*
CAPTAIN...
カチン
SNAP
ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO BE REPORTING THIS TO YOUR PRINCIPAL.
BE MY GUEST.
*HEY! SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, MAN!*


ONE MORE THING...
...I'M TAKING HER TO HER PARENTS' HOUSE TO TREAT HER INJURIES.
SHIGERU!
"TREAT HER INJURIES"? WHAT A WAY OF PUTTING IT!
I WAS SURPRISED WHAT I NOTICED, FEELING HER MUSCLES AFTER SO LONG.
OISHI
TWO OF YOUR PLAYERS GOT INJURED TODAY...
...BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HAKUUNZAN'S TRAINING ROUTINE.
EXCUSE ME?
AT THIS RATE, YOUR WHOLE TEAM WILL BE OUT OF COMMISSION BEFORE LONG.
LET'S GO, NERI.
WAIT...
COACH...

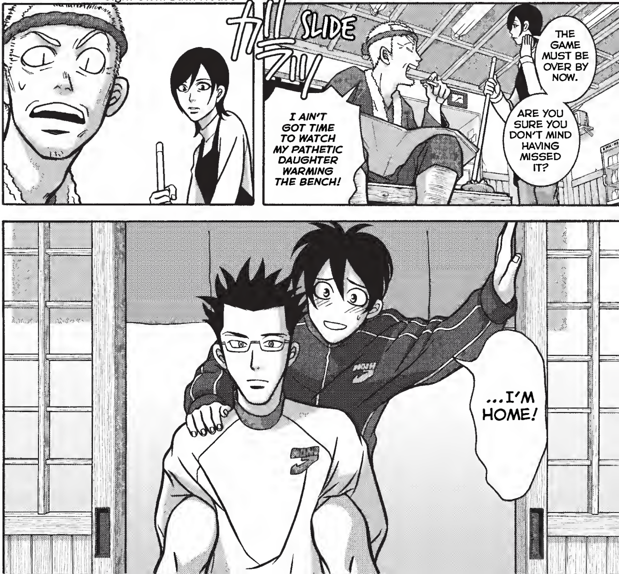

I'LL LET YOU KNOW YOUR PUNISHMENT LATER.
GO HOME BEFORE YOU DIG YOURSELF ANY DEEPER INTO THIS HOLE.
M-
MAYBE HE'LL WANT ME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT I'VE DONE?
HE'LL PROBABLY KICK YOU OUT OF THE CLUB.
ARE YOU FREAKING KIDDING ME?!
SHIKISHIMA-KUN!
WHERE'D HE GO?!

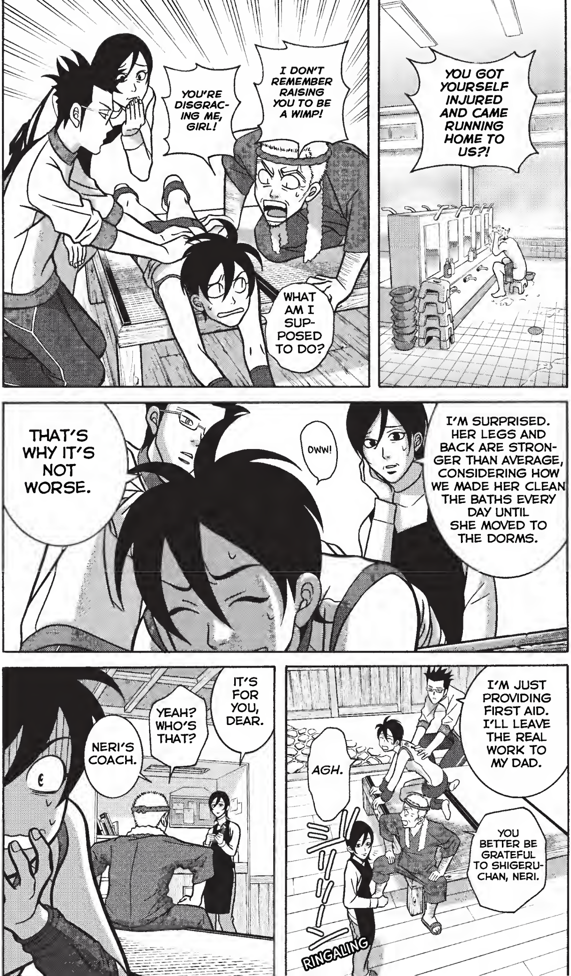

SHIKI-SHIMA-KUN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT HIGH SCHOOL YOU WANNA GO TO?
NOT REAL-LY.
HOW 'BOUT YOU, ODA-GIRI? YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE, RIGHT?
WELL ...
... IF I PICK ONE THAT'S TOO GOOD, I MIGHT NOT HAVE TIME TO DRAW MY COMICS ANY-MORE.
OH YEAH, YOU WANTED TO BECOME A PRO, RIGHT?
YEAH.
SOMEDAY, I'LL DRAW A COMIC ABOUT VOLLEY-BALL WHERE NERI-SAN'S THE MAIN CHARACTER!
...DAMN, YOU REALLY LIKE NERI, HUH?
COME ON.
...NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.

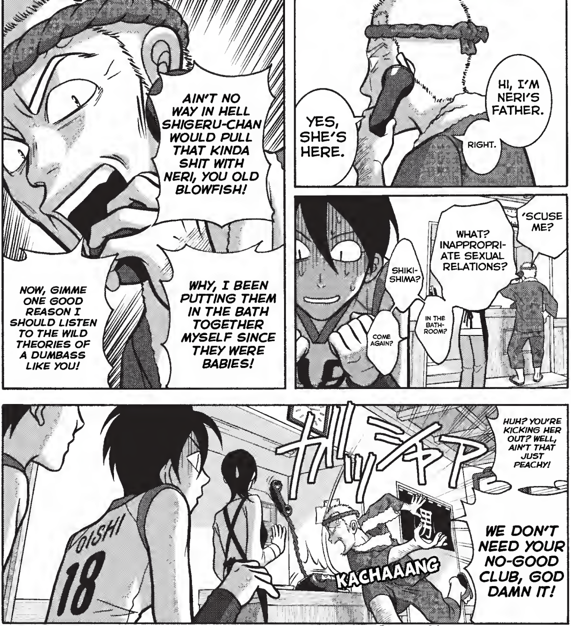

YOU SHOULD MAKE FRIENDS WITH HER.
I COULDN'T.
DON'T WANNA?
IT'S NOT THAT! I'M JUST UNWORTHY...
PFT!
YOU KIDDING ME?
BESIDES...
...THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING I CAN JUST GET UP AND GO DO.
GOD, WHY WAS SHE SO INSISTENT ABOUT GOING TO *THAT* SCHOOL?
NERI, I MEAN.
SEEMS LIKE A SHAME WHEN THERE'S PEOPLE LIKE YOU AROUND.



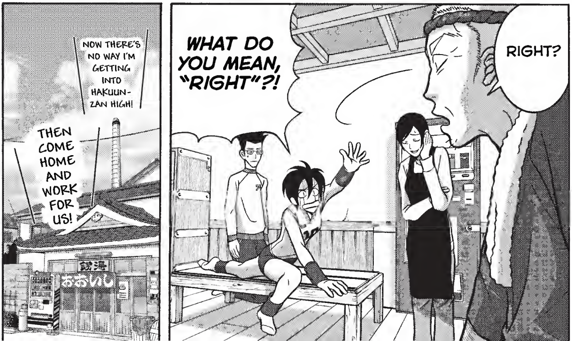
Sign: Oishi Bath House

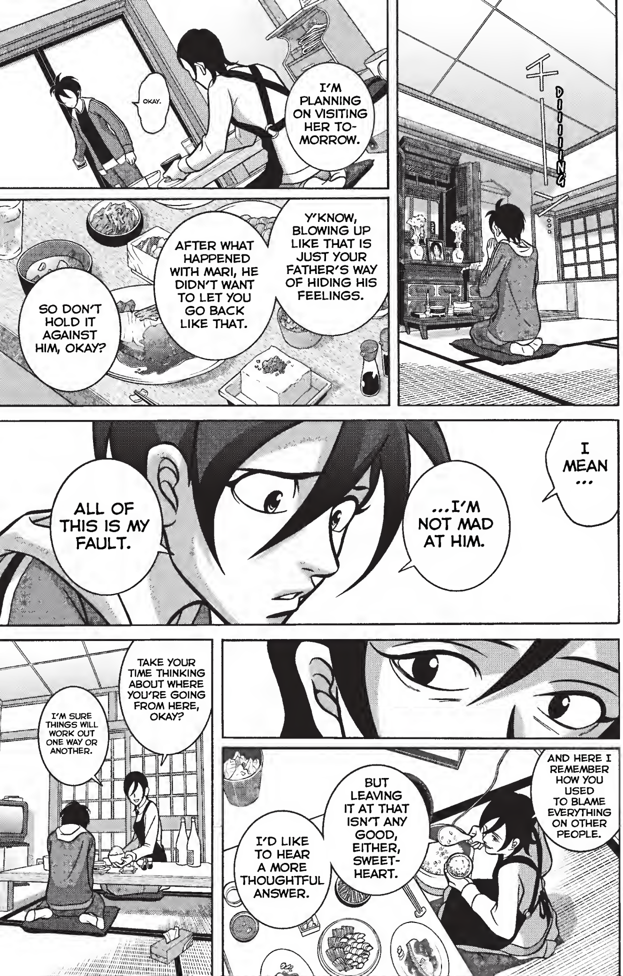

THE GAME MUST BE OVER BY NOW.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T MIND HAVING MISSED IT?
I AIN'T GOT TIME TO WATCH MY PATHETIC DAUGHTER WARMING THE BENCH!
ガラッ
SLIDE
...I'M HOME!

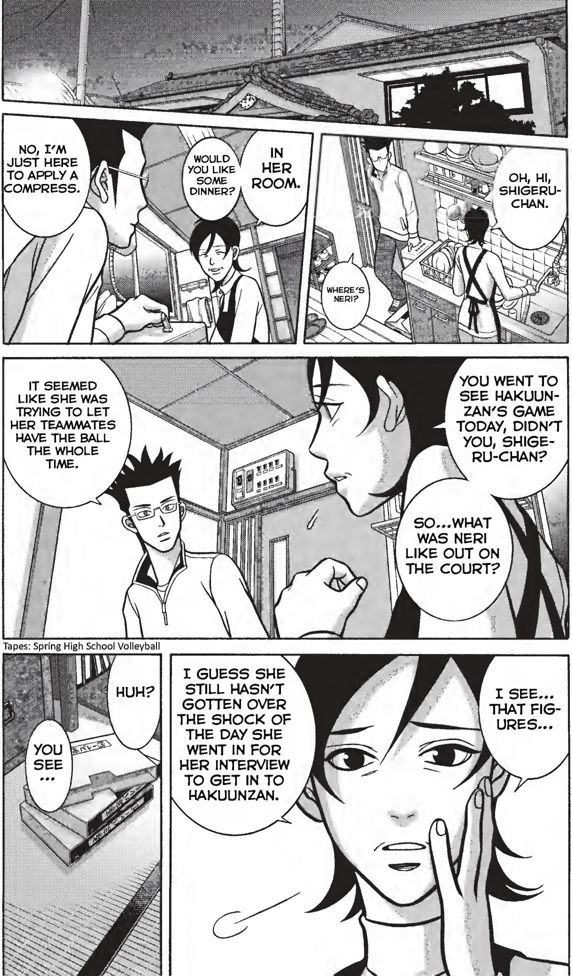

YOU GOT YOURSELF INJURED AND CAME RUNNING HOME TO US?!
I DON'T REMEMBER RAISING YOU TO BE A WIMP!
YOU'RE DISGRACING ME, GIRL!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
I'M SURPRISED. HER LEGS AND BACK ARE STRONGER THAN AVERAGE, CONSIDERING HOW WE MADE HER CLEAN THE BATHS EVERY DAY UNTIL SHE MOVED TO THE DORMS.
OWW!
THAT'S WHY IT'S NOT WORSE.
I'M JUST PROVIDING FIRST AID. I'LL LEAVE THE REAL WORK TO MY DAD.
AGH.
YOU BETTER BE GRATEFUL TO SHIGERU-CHAN, NERI.
RINGALING
IT'S FOR YOU, DEAR.
YEAH? WHO'S THAT?
NERI'S COACH.


HI, I'M NERI'S FATHER.
RIGHT.
YES, SHE'S HERE.
'SCUSE ME?
WHAT? INAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL RELATIONS?
SHIKISHIMA?
IN THE BATHROOM?
COME AGAIN?
AIN'T NO WAY IN HELL SHIGERU-CHAN WOULD PULL THAT KINDA SHIT WITH NERI, YOU OLD BLOWFISH!
WHY, I BEEN PUTTING THEM IN THE BATH TOGETHER MYSELF SINCE THEY WERE BABIES!
NOW, GIMME ONE GOOD REASON I SHOULD LISTEN TO THE WILD THEORIES OF A DUMBASS LIKE YOU!
HUH? YOU'RE KICKING HER OUT? WELL, AIN'T THAT JUST PEACHY!
ガッシャア
WE DON'T NEED YOUR NO-GOOD CLUB, GOD DAMN IT!
男
KACHAAANG
OISHI
18

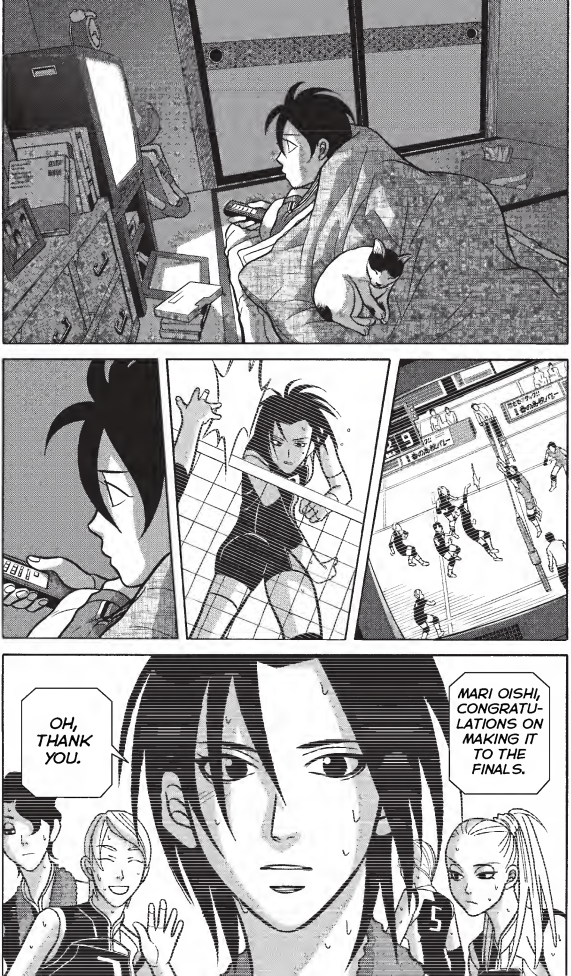
Banner: Men

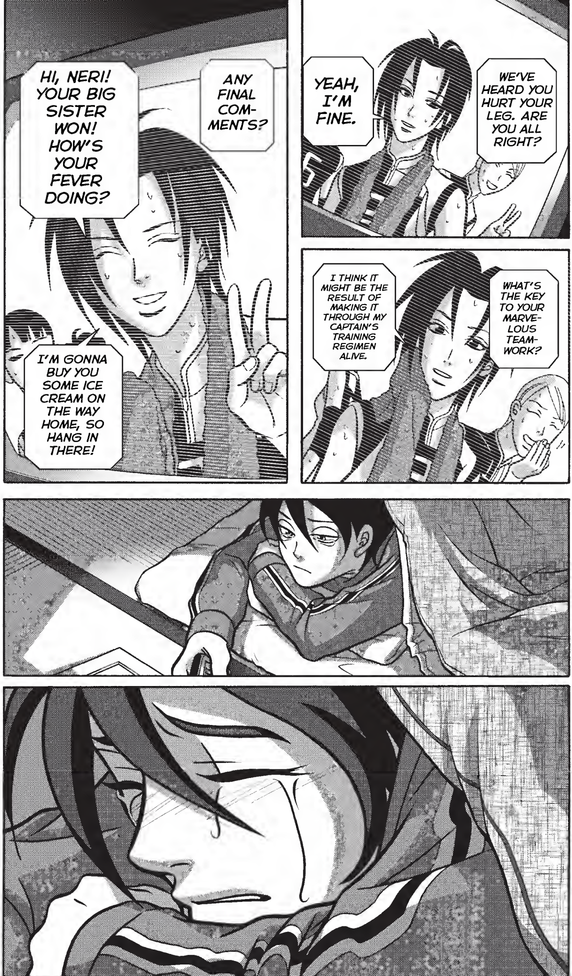

RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "RIGHT"?!
NOW THERE'S NO WAY I'M GETTING INTO HAKUUN-ZAN HIGH!
THEN COME HOME AND WORK FOR US!
銭湯
おおいし

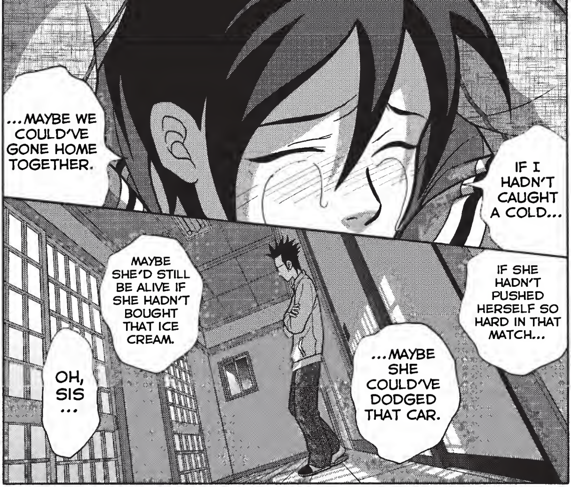

チーン
DIIIIING
I'M PLANNING ON VISITING HER TOMORROW.
OKAY.
Y'KNOW, BLOWING UP LIKE THAT IS JUST YOUR FATHER'S WAY OF HIDING HIS FEELINGS.
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH MARI, HE DIDN'T WANT TO LET YOU GO BACK LIKE THAT.
SO DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST HIM, OKAY?
I MEAN...
...I'M NOT MAD AT HIM.
ALL OF THIS IS MY FAULT.
AND HERE I REMEMBER HOW YOU USED TO BLAME EVERYTHING ON OTHER PEOPLE.
BUT LEAVING IT AT THAT ISN'T ANY GOOD, EITHER, SWEETHEART.
I'D LIKE TO HEAR A MORE THOUGHTFUL ANSWER.
TAKE YOUR TIME THINKING ABOUT WHERE YOU'RE GOING FROM HERE, OKAY?
I'M SURE THINGS WILL WORK OUT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

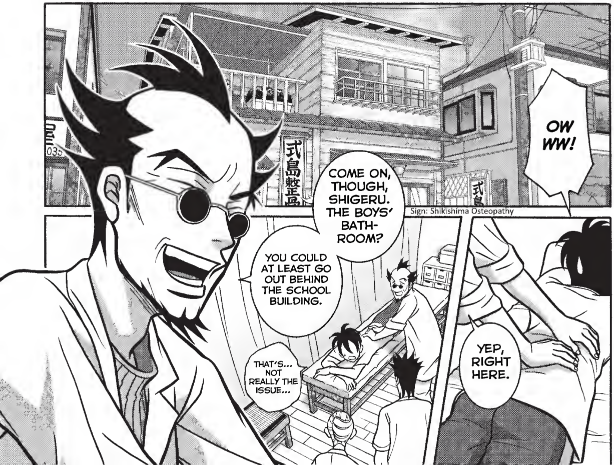

OH, HI, SHIGERU-CHAN.
WHERE'S NERI?
IN HER ROOM.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME DINNER?
NO, I'M JUST HERE TO APPLY A COMPRESS.
YOU WENT TO SEE HAKUUNZAN'S GAME TODAY, DIDN'T YOU, SHIGERU-CHAN?
SO...WHAT WAS NERI LIKE OUT ON THE COURT?
IT SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS TRYING TO LET HER TEAMMATES HAVE THE BALL THE WHOLE TIME.
I SEE... THAT FIGURES...
I GUESS SHE STILL HASN'T GOTTEN OVER THE SHOCK OF THE DAY SHE WENT IN FOR HER INTERVIEW TO GET IN TO HAKUUNZAN.
HUH?
YOU SEE...

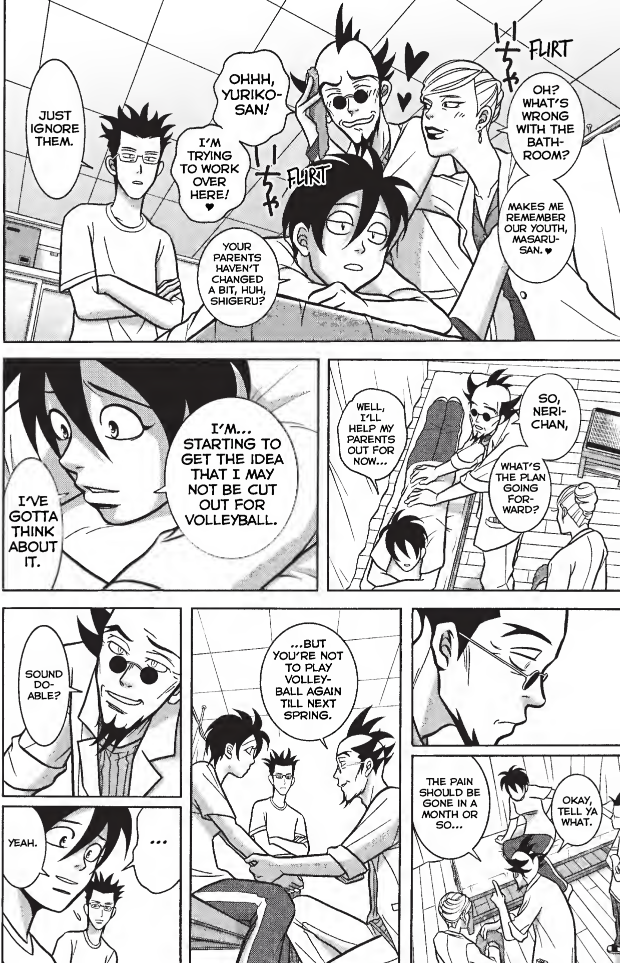
Tapes: Spring High School Volleyball

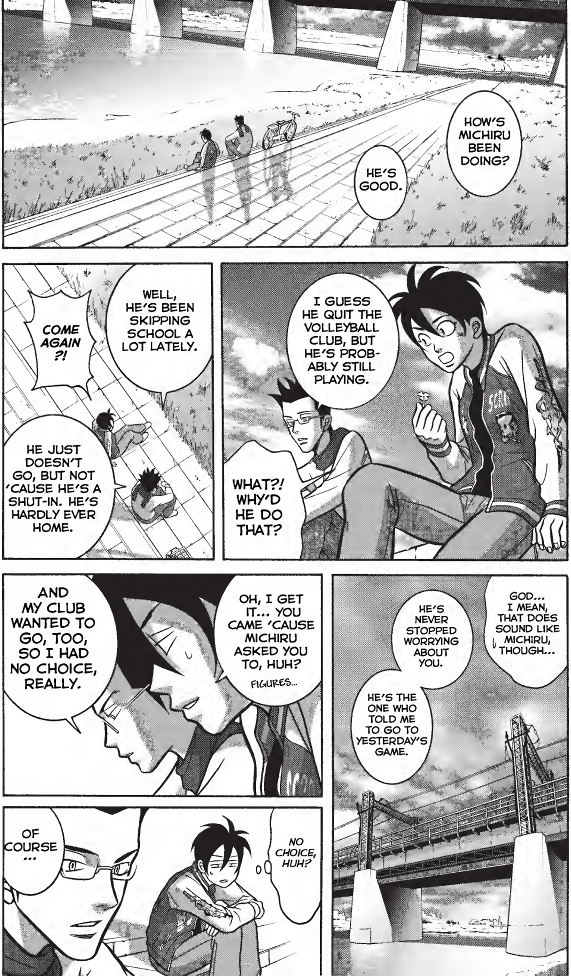

2 9
春の高校バレー
タック!!
春の高校バレー
MARI OISHI, CONGRATULATIONS ON MAKING IT TO THE FINALS.
OH, THANK YOU.

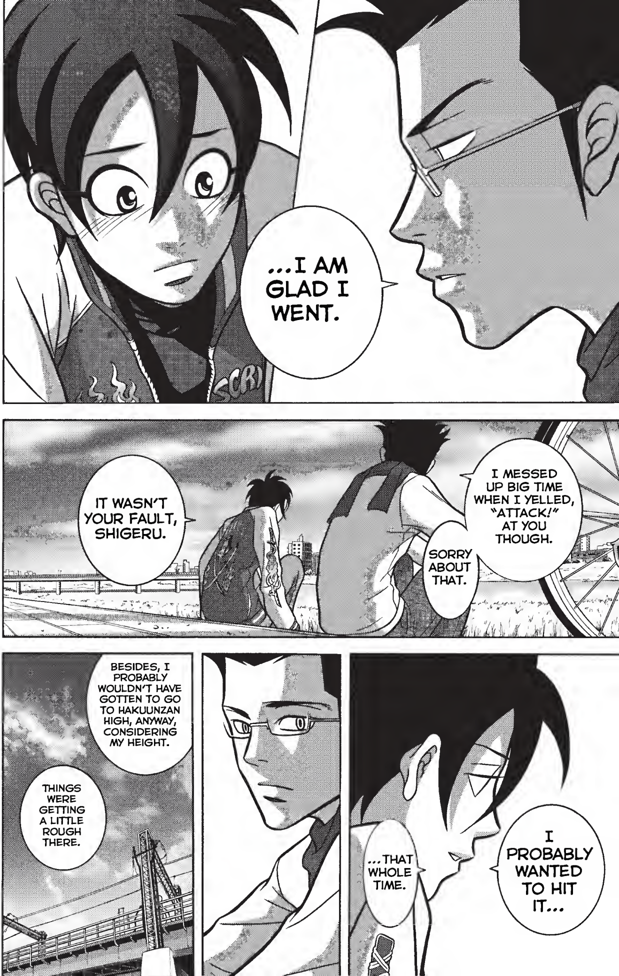

WE'VE HEARD YOU HURT YOUR LEG. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH, I'M FINE.
WHAT'S THE KEY TO YOUR MARVELOUS TEAMWORK?
I THINK IT MIGHT BE THE RESULT OF MAKING IT THROUGH MY CAPTAIN'S TRAINING REGIMEN ALIVE.
ANY FINAL COMMENTS?
HI, NERI! YOUR BIG SISTER WON! HOW'S YOUR FEVER DOING?
I'M GONNA BUY YOU SOME ICE CREAM ON THE WAY HOME, SO HANG IN THERE!

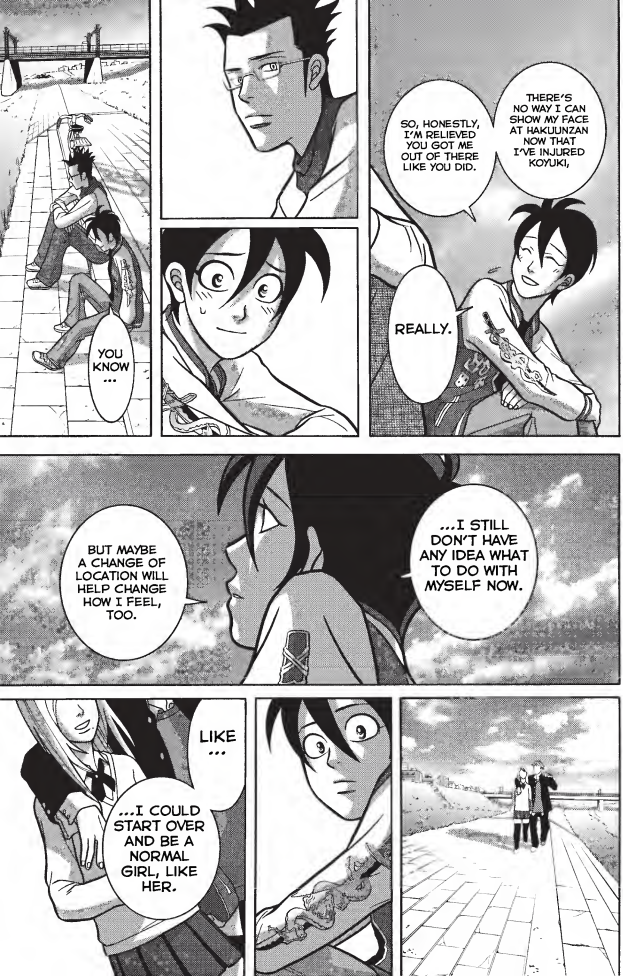

IF I HADN'T CAUGHT A COLD...
...MAYBE WE COULD'VE GONE HOME TOGETHER.
IF SHE HADN'T PUSHED HERSELF SO HARD IN THAT MATCH...
...MAYBE SHE COULD'VE DODGED THAT CAR.
MAYBE SHE'D STILL BE ALIVE IF SHE HADN'T BOUGHT THAT ICE CREAM.
OH, SIS...

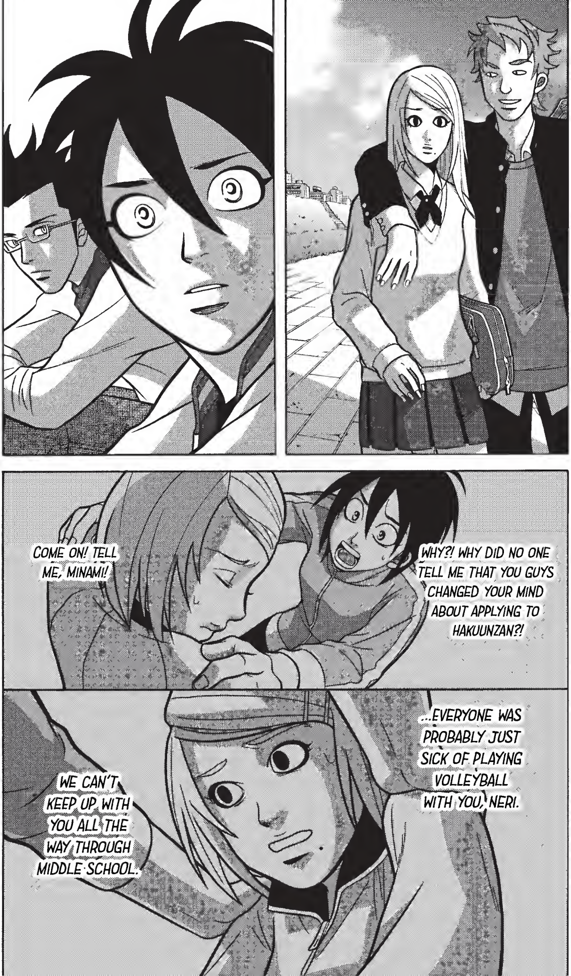

OW WW!
式島整
式島
Sign: Shikishima Osteopathy
YEP, RIGHT HERE.
COME ON, THOUGH, SHIGERU. THE BOYS' BATHROOM?
YOU COULD AT LEAST GO OUT BEHIND THE SCHOOL BUILDING.
THAT'S... NOT REALLY THE ISSUE...

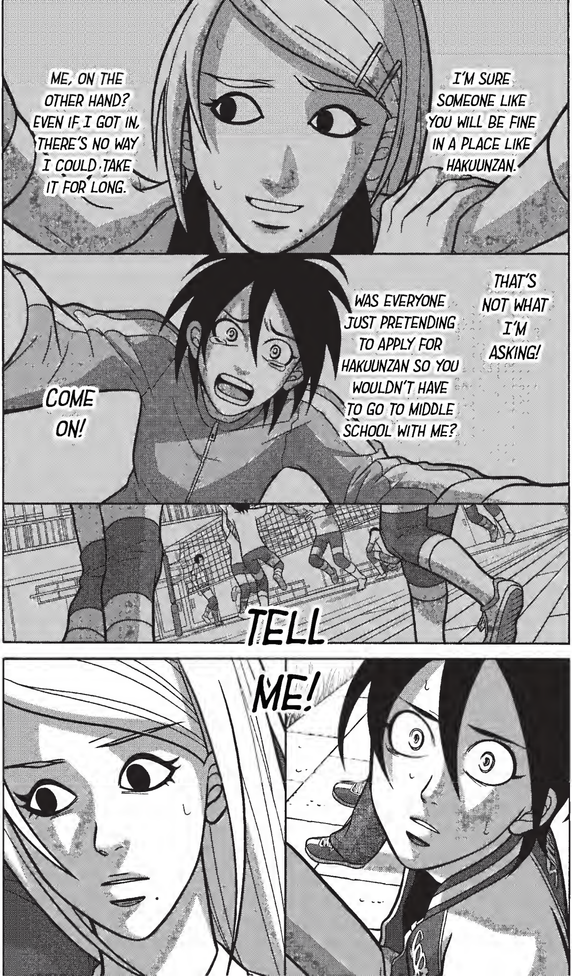

いちゃ FLIRT
OH? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE BATHROOM?
MAKES ME REMEMBER OUR YOUTH, MASARU-SAN. ♥
OHHH, YURIKO-SAN!
I'M TRYING TO WORK OVER HERE! ♥
いちゃ FLIRT
YOUR PARENTS HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, HUH, SHIGERU?
JUST IGNORE THEM.
SO, NERI-CHAN,
WHAT'S THE PLAN GOING FORWARD?
WELL, I'LL HELP MY PARENTS OUT FOR NOW...
I'M... STARTING TO GET THE IDEA THAT I MAY NOT BE CUT OUT FOR VOLLEYBALL.
I'VE GOTTA THINK ABOUT IT.
OKAY, TELL YA WHAT.
THE PAIN SHOULD BE GONE IN A MONTH OR SO...
...BUT YOU'RE NOT TO PLAY VOLLEYBALL AGAIN TILL NEXT SPRING.
SOUND DOABLE?
...
YEAH.

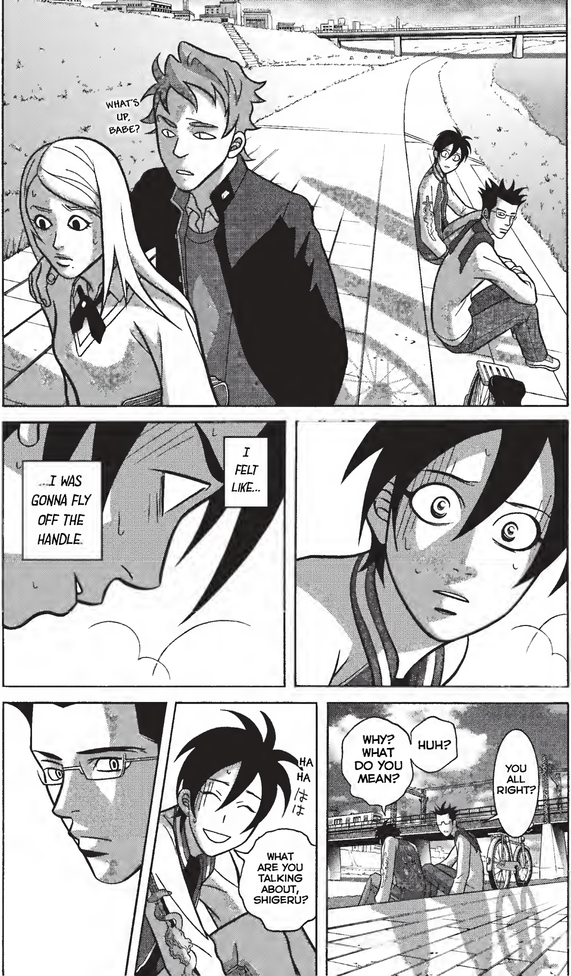

HOW'S MICHIRU BEEN DOING?
HE'S GOOD.
I GUESS HE QUIT THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB, BUT HE'S PROBABLY STILL PLAYING.
WHAT?! WHY'D HE DO THAT?
WELL, HE'S BEEN SKIPPING SCHOOL A LOT LATELY.
COME AGAIN?!
HE JUST DOESN'T GO, BUT NOT 'CAUSE HE'S A SHUT-IN. HE'S HARDLY EVER HOME.
GOD... I MEAN, THAT DOES SOUND LIKE MICHIRU, THOUGH...
HE'S NEVER STOPPED WORRYING ABOUT YOU.
HE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO GO TO YESTERDAY'S GAME.
OH, I GET IT... YOU CAME 'CAUSE MICHIRU ASKED YOU TO, HUH?
FIGURES...
AND MY CLUB WANTED TO GO, TOO, SO I HAD NO CHOICE, REALLY.
NO CHOICE, HUH?
OF COURSE...

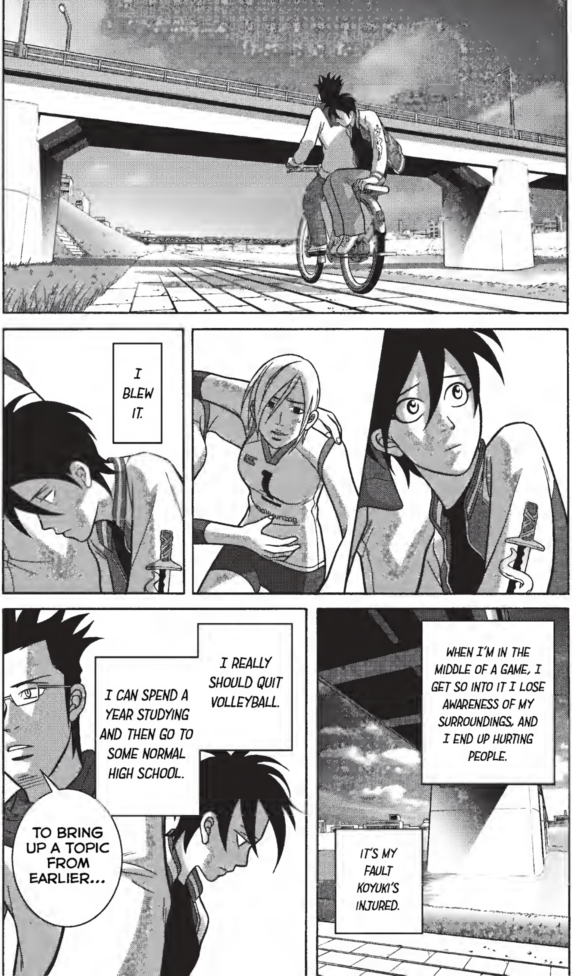

...I AM GLAD I WENT.
I MESSED UP BIG TIME WHEN I YELLED, "ATTACK!" AT YOU THOUGH.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT, SHIGERU.
I PROBABLY WANTED TO HIT IT...
...THAT WHOLE TIME.
BESIDES, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN TO GO TO HAKUUNZAN HIGH, ANYWAY, CONSIDERING MY HEIGHT.
THINGS WERE GETTING A LITTLE ROUGH THERE.

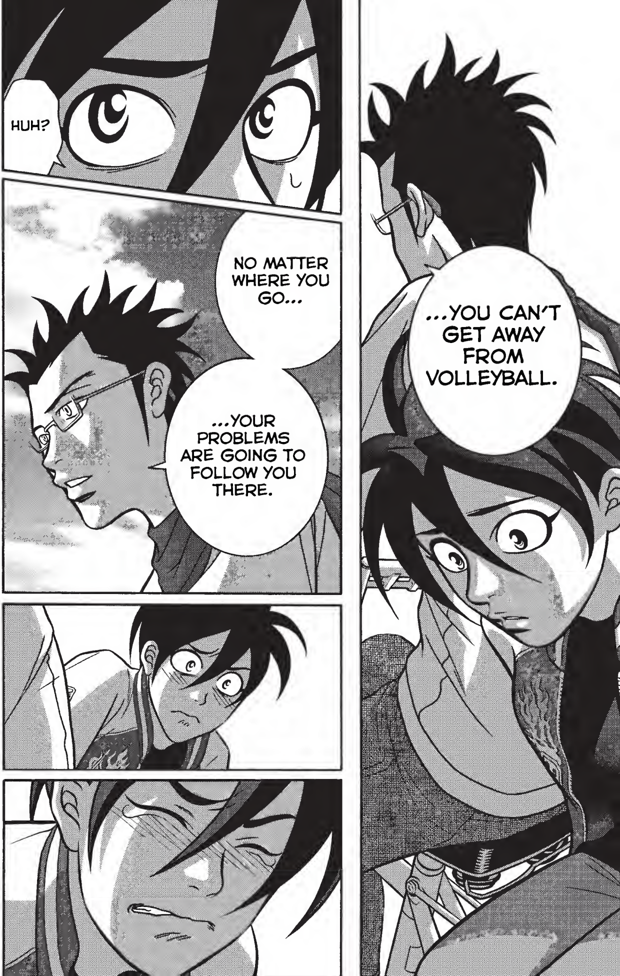

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SHOW MY FACE AT HAKUUNZAN NOW THAT I'VE INJURED KOYUKI,
SO, HONESTLY, I'M RELIEVED YOU GOT ME OUT OF THERE LIKE YOU DID.
REALLY.
YOU KNOW ...
...I STILL DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF NOW.
BUT MAYBE A CHANGE OF LOCATION WILL HELP CHANGE HOW I FEEL, TOO.
LIKE ...
...I COULD START OVER AND BE A NORMAL GIRL, LIKE HER.

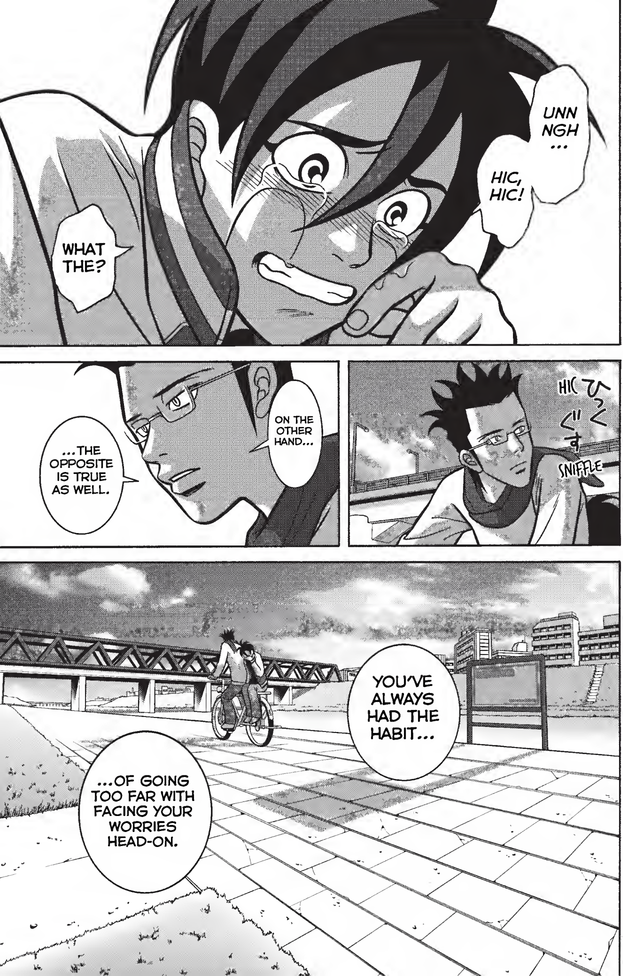

WHY?! WHY DID NO ONE TELL ME THAT YOU GUYS CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT APPLYING TO HAKUUNZAN?!
COME ON! TELL ME, MINAMI!
...EVERYONE WAS PROBABLY JUST SICK OF PLAYING VOLLEYBALL WITH YOU, NERI.
WE CAN'T KEEP UP WITH YOU ALL THE WAY THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL.

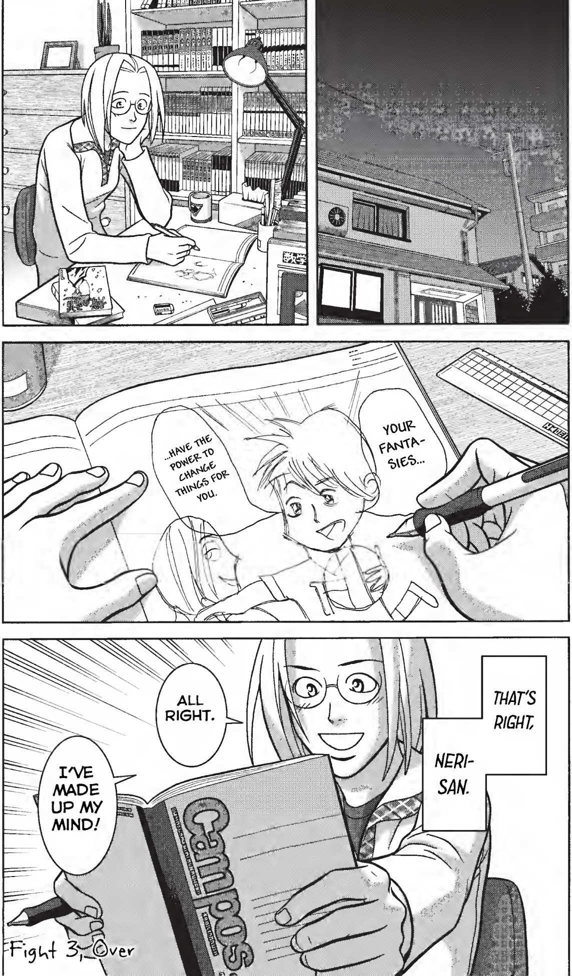

I'M SURE SOMEONE LIKE YOU WILL BE FINE IN A PLACE LIKE HAKUUNZAN.
ME, ON THE OTHER HAND? EVEN IF I GOT IN, THERE'S NO WAY I COULD TAKE IT FOR LONG.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING!
WAS EVERYONE JUST PRETENDING TO APPLY FOR HAKUUNZAN SO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO TO MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH ME?
COME ON!
TELL
ME!

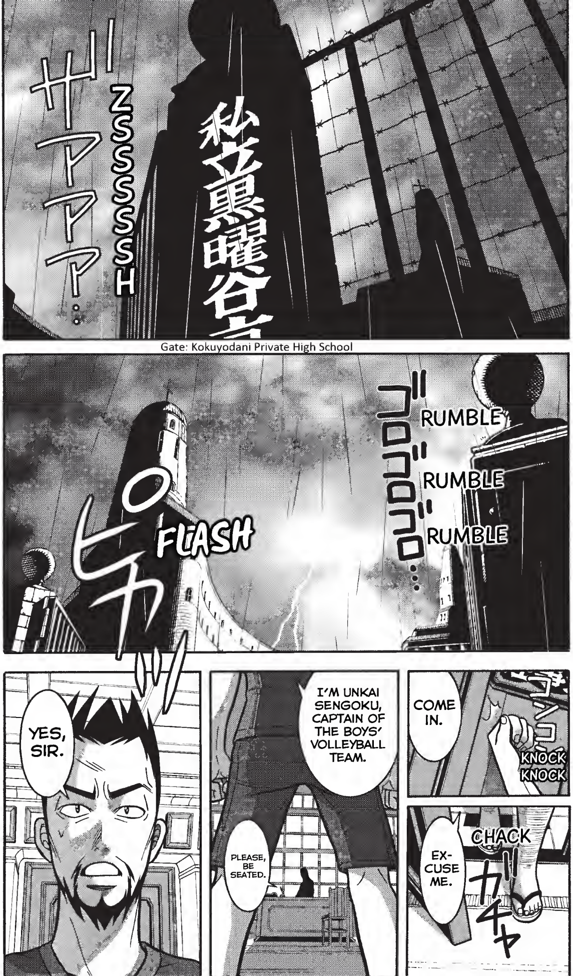

WHAT'S UP, BABE?
I FELT LIKE...
...I WAS GONNA FLY OFF THE HANDLE.
YOU ALL RIGHT?
HUH?
WHY? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HA HA はは
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SHIGERU?


I BLEW IT.
WHEN I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME, I GET SO INTO IT I LOSE AWARENESS OF MY SURROUNDINGS, AND I END UP HURTING PEOPLE.
IT'S MY FAULT KOYUKI'S INJURED.
I REALLY SHOULD QUIT VOLLEYBALL.
I CAN SPEND A YEAR STUDYING AND THEN GO TO SOME NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL.
TO BRING UP A TOPIC FROM EARLIER...

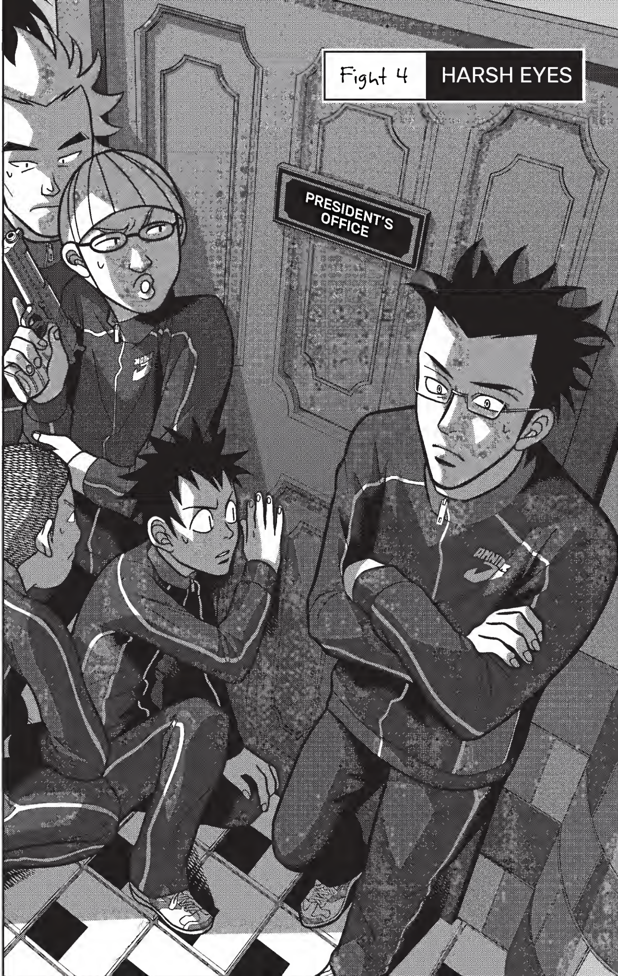

HUH?
NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO...
...YOUR PROBLEMS ARE GOING TO FOLLOW YOU THERE.
...YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM VOLLEYBALL.

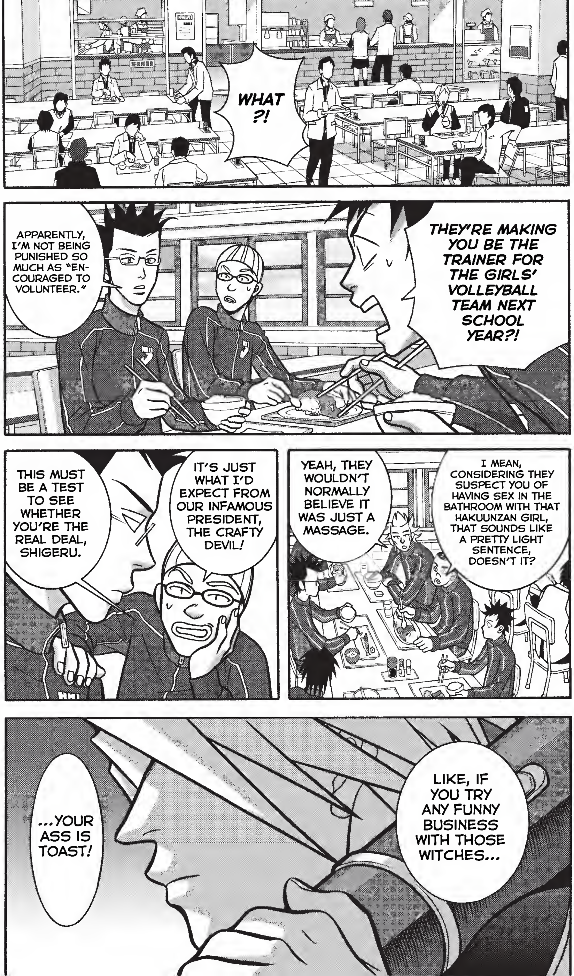

UNN NGH ...
HIC, HIC!
WHAT THE?
HIC ひっく
ぐす SNIFFLE
ON THE OTHER HAND...
...THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE AS WELL.
YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD THE HABIT...
...OF GOING TOO FAR WITH FACING YOUR WORRIES HEAD-ON.

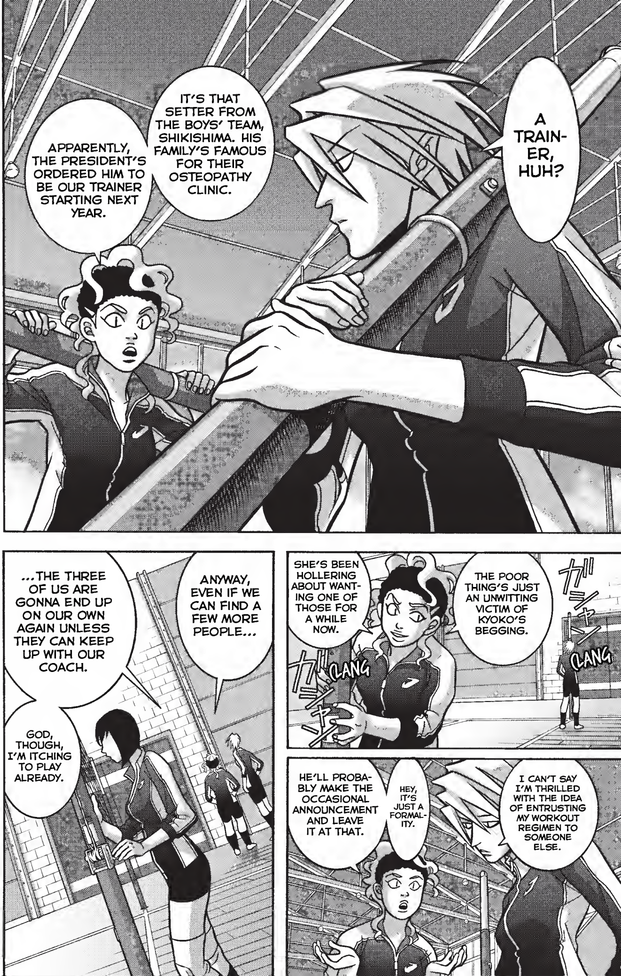

YOUR FANTASIES...
...HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THINGS FOR YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT,
NERI-SAN.
ALL RIGHT.
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND!
Campus
Fight 3, Over

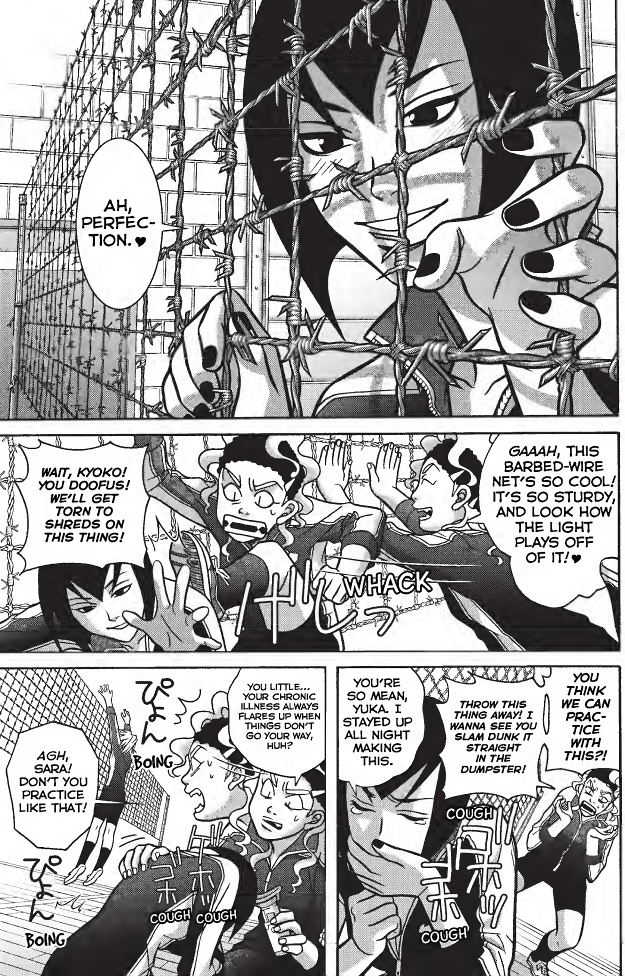

ザァァァ‥
ZSSSSSH
私立黒曜谷
Gate: Kokuyodani Private High School
ゴロゴロゴロ…
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ピカッ
FLASH
コンコン
KNOCK KNOCK
COME IN.
ガチャ
CHACK
EXCUSE ME.
I'M UNKAI SENGOKU, CAPTAIN OF THE BOYS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM.
PLEASE, BE SEATED.
YES, SIR.

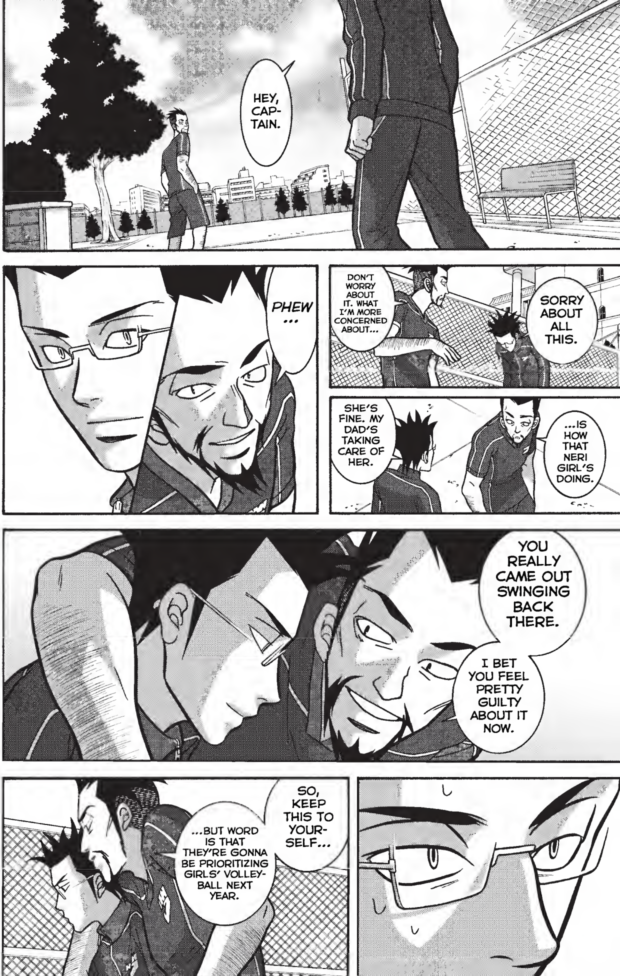
# Fight 4 HARSH EYES

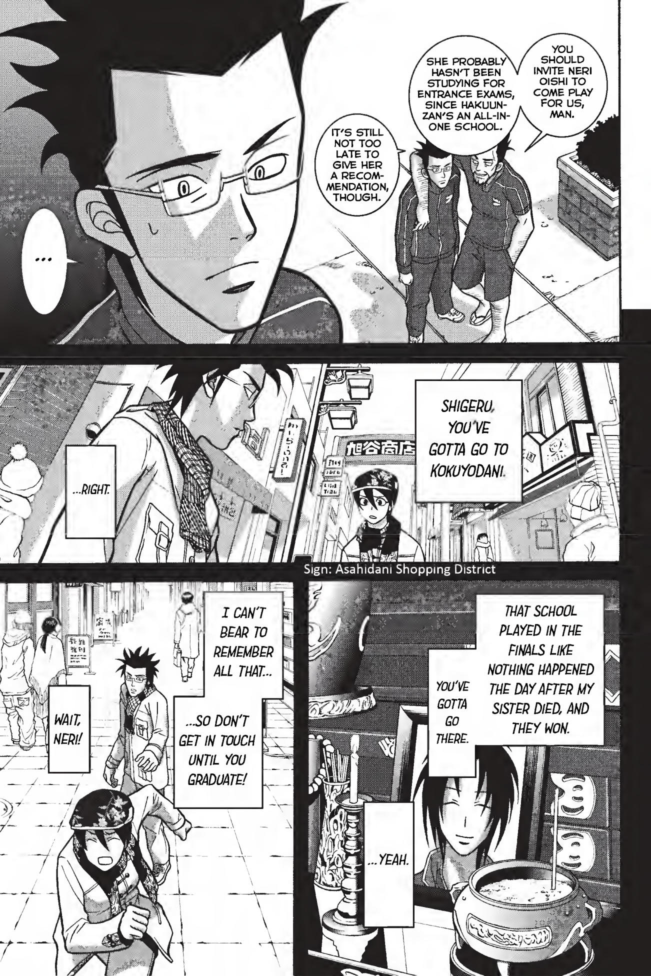

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE


WHAT ?!
THEY'RE MAKING YOU BE THE TRAINER FOR THE GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM NEXT SCHOOL YEAR?!
APPARENTLY, I'M NOT BEING PUNISHED SO MUCH AS "ENCOURAGED TO VOLUNTEER."
I MEAN, CONSIDERING THEY SUSPECT YOU OF HAVING SEX IN THE BATHROOM WITH THAT HAKUUNZAN GIRL, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY LIGHT SENTENCE, DOESN'T IT?
YEAH, THEY WOULDN'T NORMALLY BELIEVE IT WAS JUST A MASSAGE.
IT'S JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM OUR INFAMOUS PRESIDENT, THE CRAFTY DEVIL!
THIS MUST BE A TEST TO SEE WHETHER YOU'RE THE REAL DEAL, SHIGERU.
LIKE, IF YOU TRY ANY FUNNY BUSINESS WITH THOSE WITCHES...
...YOUR ASS IS TOAST!

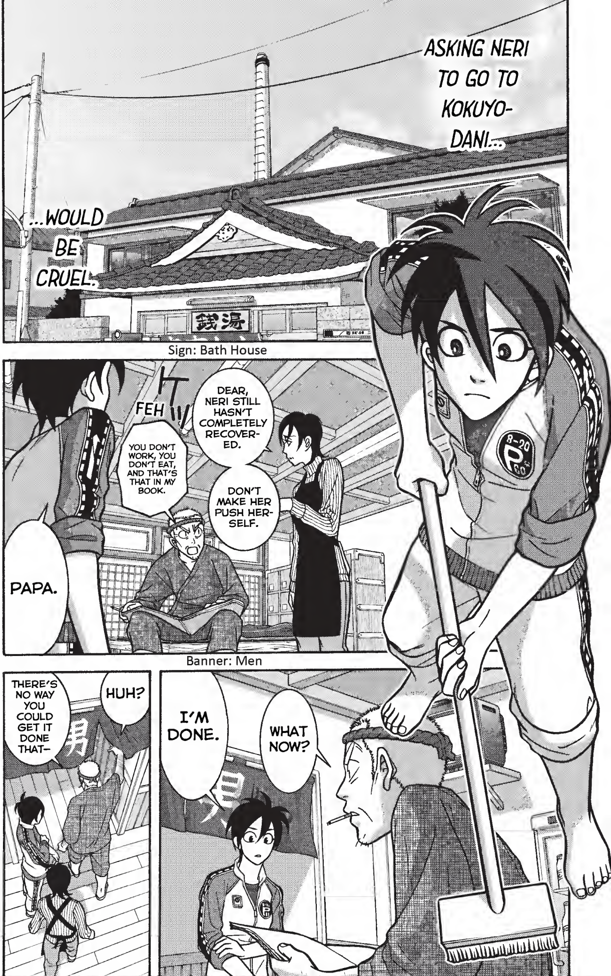

A TRAINER, HUH?
IT'S THAT SETTER FROM THE BOYS' TEAM, SHIKISHIMA. HIS FAMILY'S FAMOUS FOR THEIR OSTEOPATHY CLINIC.
APPARENTLY, THE PRESIDENT'S ORDERED HIM TO BE OUR TRAINER STARTING NEXT YEAR.
CLANG
THE POOR THING'S JUST AN UNWITTING VICTIM OF KYOKO'S BEGGING.
CLANG
SHE'S BEEN HOLLERING ABOUT WANTING ONE OF THOSE FOR A WHILE NOW.
I CAN'T SAY I'M THRILLED WITH THE IDEA OF ENTRUSTING MY WORKOUT REGIMEN TO SOMEONE ELSE.
HEY, IT'S JUST A FORMALITY.
HE'LL PROBABLY MAKE THE OCCASIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT AND LEAVE IT AT THAT.
ANYWAY, EVEN IF WE CAN FIND A FEW MORE PEOPLE...
...THE THREE OF US ARE GONNA END UP ON OUR OWN AGAIN UNLESS THEY CAN KEEP UP WITH OUR COACH.
GOD, THOUGH, I'M ITCHING TO PLAY ALREADY.


AH, PERFECTION.♥
GAAAH, THIS BARBED-WIRE NET'S SO COOL! IT'S SO STURDY, AND LOOK HOW THE LIGHT PLAYS OFF OF IT!♥
WHACK
WAIT, KYOKO! YOU DOOFUS! WE'LL GET TORN TO SHREDS ON THIS THING!
YOU THINK WE CAN PRACTICE WITH THIS?!
THROW THIS THING AWAY! I WANNA SEE YOU SLAM DUNK IT STRAIGHT IN THE DUMPSTER!
YOU'RE SO MEAN, YUKA. I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT MAKING THIS.
COUGH
COUGH
YOU LITTLE... YOUR CHRONIC ILLNESS ALWAYS FLARES UP WHEN THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY, HUH?
ぴょん
BOING
AGH, SARA! DON'T YOU PRACTICE LIKE THAT!
COUGH COUGH
ぴょん
BOING


HEY, CAPTAIN.
SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WHAT I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT...
...IS HOW THAT NERI GIRL'S DOING.
SHE'S FINE. MY DAD'S TAKING CARE OF HER.
*PHEW*...
YOU REALLY CAME OUT SWINGING BACK THERE.
I BET YOU FEEL PRETTY GUILTY ABOUT IT NOW.
SO, KEEP THIS TO YOURSELF...
...BUT WORD IS THAT THEY'RE GONNA BE PRIORITIZING GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL NEXT YEAR.

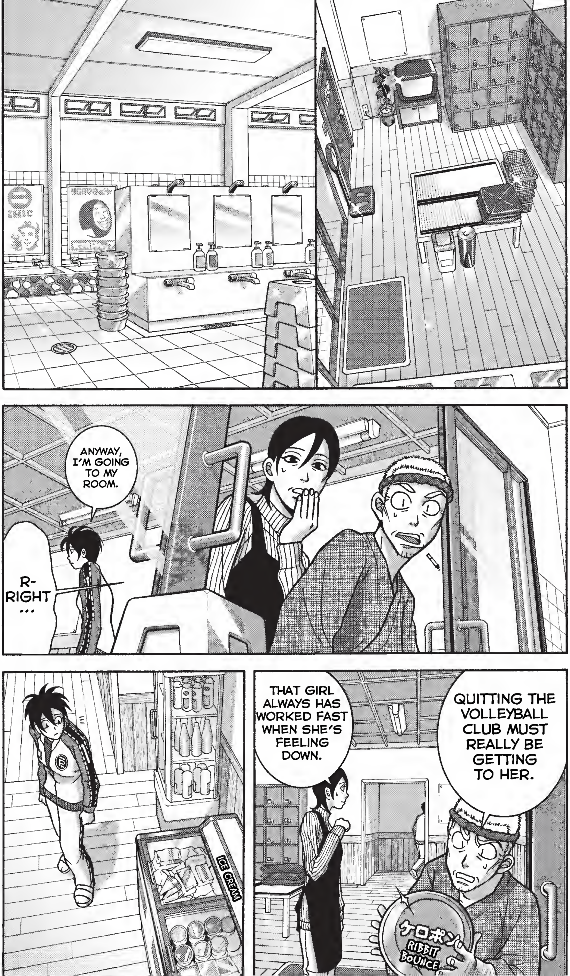

YOU SHOULD INVITE NERI OISHI TO COME PLAY FOR US, MAN.
SHE PROBABLY HASN'T BEEN STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS, SINCE HAKUUN-ZAN'S AN ALL-IN-ONE SCHOOL.
IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO GIVE HER A RECOMMENDATION, THOUGH.
...
SHIGERU, YOU'VE GOTTA GO TO KOKUYODANI.
...RIGHT.
旭谷商店
THAT SCHOOL PLAYED IN THE FINALS LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED THE DAY AFTER MY SISTER DIED, AND THEY WON.
YOU'VE GOTTA GO THERE.
...YEAH.
I CAN'T BEAR TO REMEMBER ALL THAT...
...SO DON'T GET IN TOUCH UNTIL YOU GRADUATE!
WAIT, NERI!

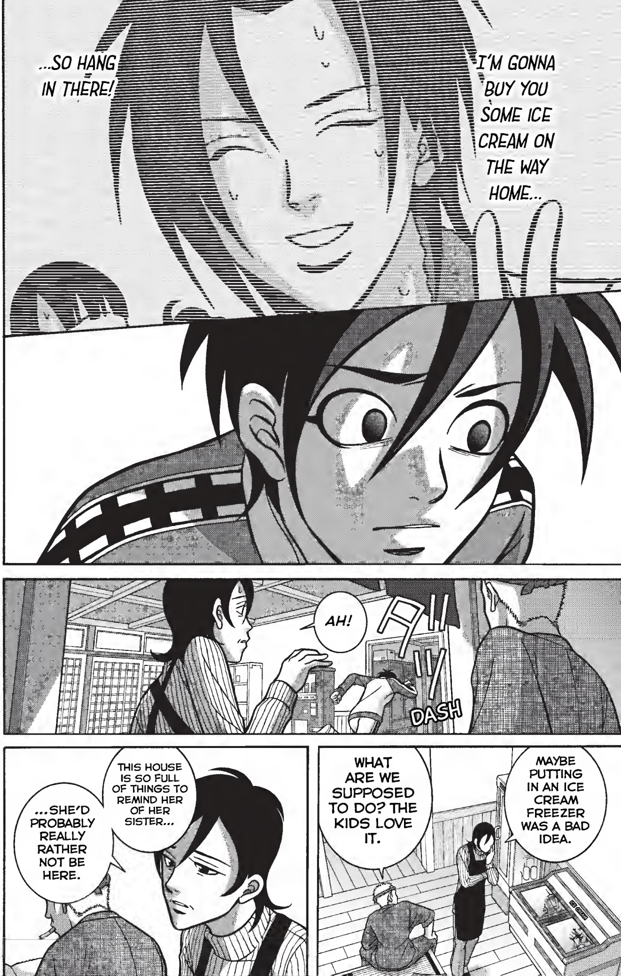
Sign: Asahidani Shopping District

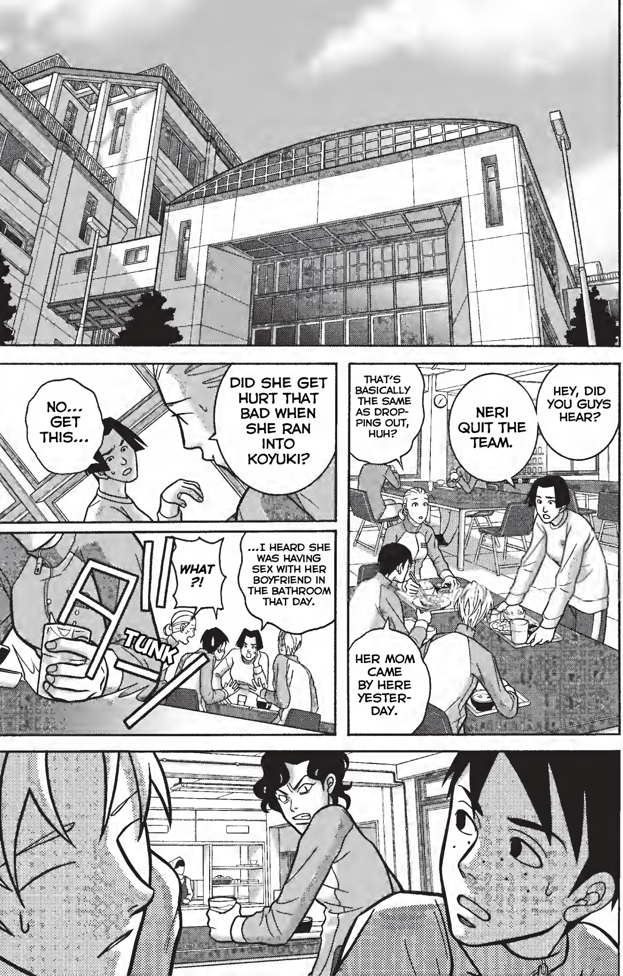

ASKING NERI TO GO TO KOKUYO-DANI...
...WOULD BE CRUEL.
銭湯
DEAR, NERI STILL HASN'T COMPLETELY RECOVERED.
DON'T MAKE HER PUSH HERSELF.
FEH
YOU DON'T WORK, YOU DON'T EAT, AND THAT'S THAT IN MY BOOK.
PAPA.
WHAT NOW?
I'M DONE.
HUH?
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD GET IT DONE THAT—

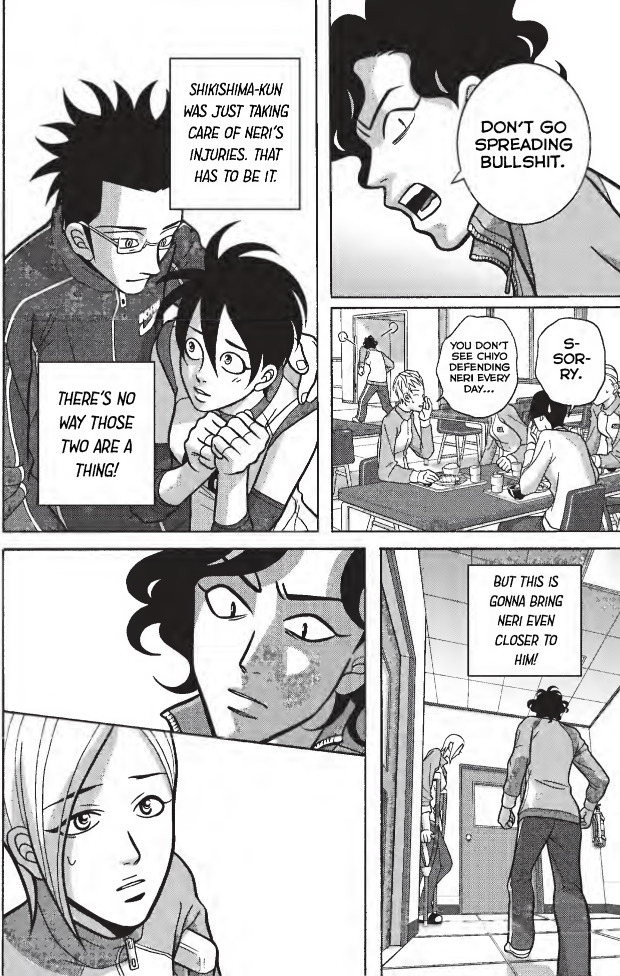
Sign: Bath House

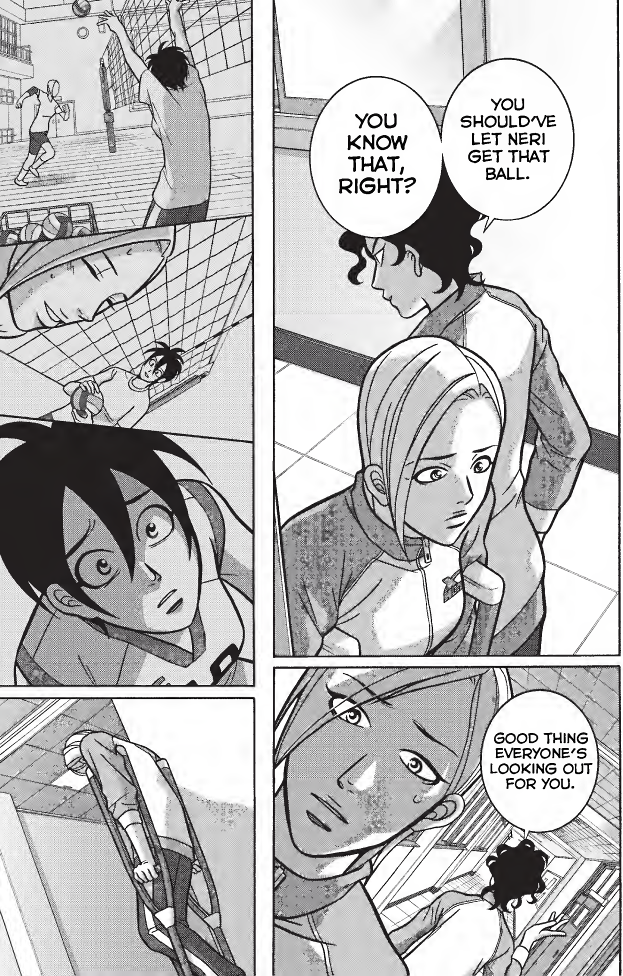
Banner: Men

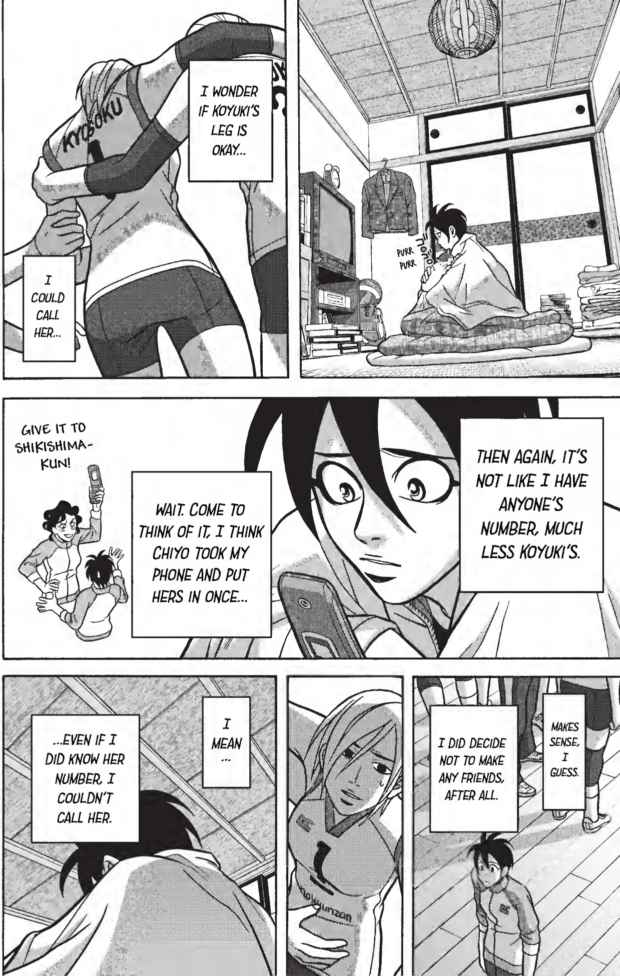

ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO MY ROOM.
R-RIGHT...
QUITTING THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB MUST REALLY BE GETTING TO HER.
THAT GIRL ALWAYS HAS WORKED FAST WHEN SHE'S FEELING DOWN.
ケロポン
RIBBIT BOUNCE
ICE CREAM

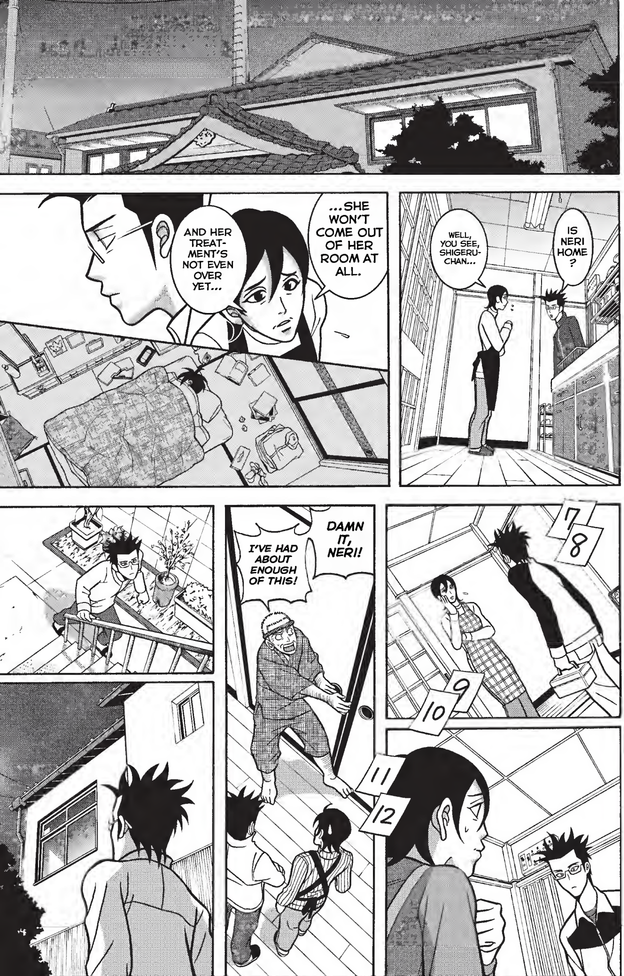

I'M GONNA BUY YOU SOME ICE CREAM ON THE WAY HOME...
...SO HANG IN THERE!
AH!
DASH
MAYBE PUTTING IN AN ICE CREAM FREEZER WAS A BAD IDEA.
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? THE KIDS LOVE IT.
THIS HOUSE IS SO FULL OF THINGS TO REMIND HER OF HER SISTER...
...SHE'D PROBABLY REALLY RATHER NOT BE HERE.

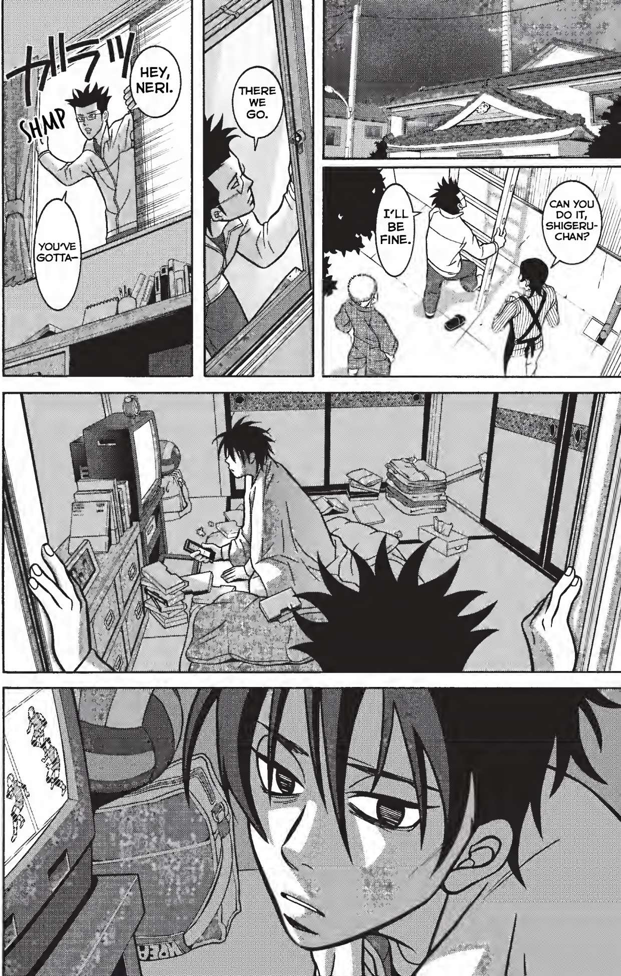

HEY, DID YOU GUYS HEAR?
NERI QUIT THE TEAM.
THAT'S BASICALLY THE SAME AS DROPPING OUT, HUH?
HER MOM CAME BY HERE YESTERDAY.
DID SHE GET HURT THAT BAD WHEN SHE RAN INTO KOYUKI?
NO... GET THIS...
...I HEARD SHE WAS HAVING SEX WITH HER BOYFRIEND IN THE BATHROOM THAT DAY.
WHAT?!
TUNK

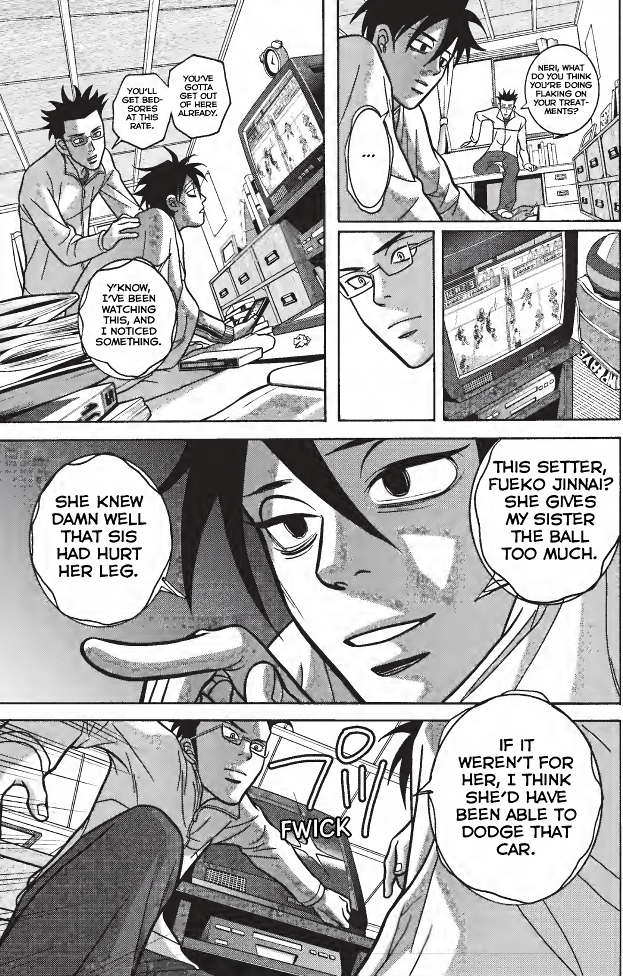

DON'T GO SPREADING BULLSHIT.
S-SORRY.
YOU DON'T SEE CHIYO DEFENDING NERI EVERY DAY...
SHIKISHIMA-KUN WAS JUST TAKING CARE OF NERI'S INJURIES. THAT HAS TO BE IT.
THERE'S NO WAY THOSE TWO ARE A THING!
BUT THIS IS GONNA BRING NERI EVEN CLOSER TO HIM!

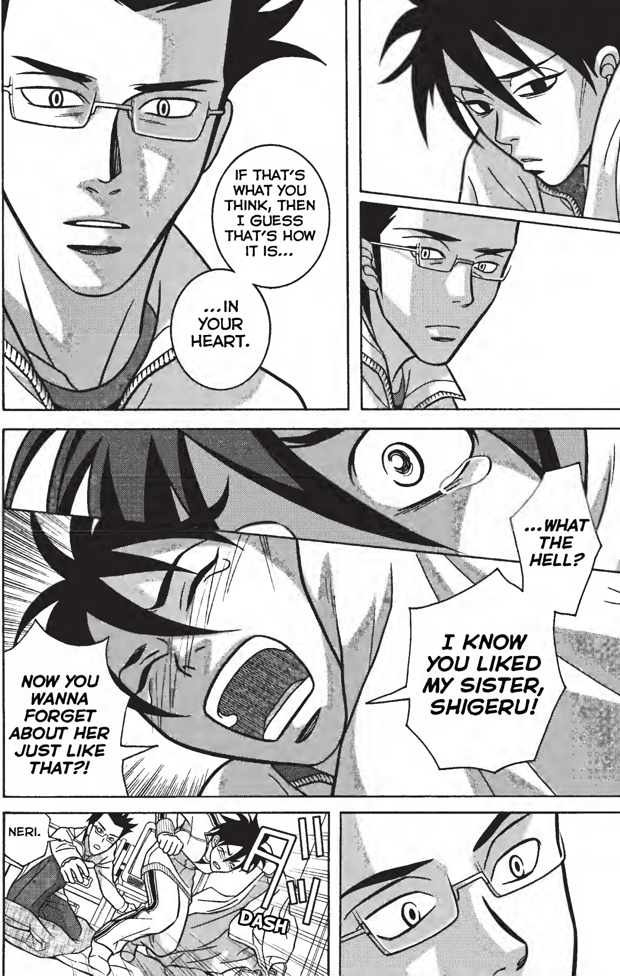

YOU SHOULD'VE LET NERI GET THAT BALL.
YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
GOOD THING EVERYONE'S LOOKING OUT FOR YOU.

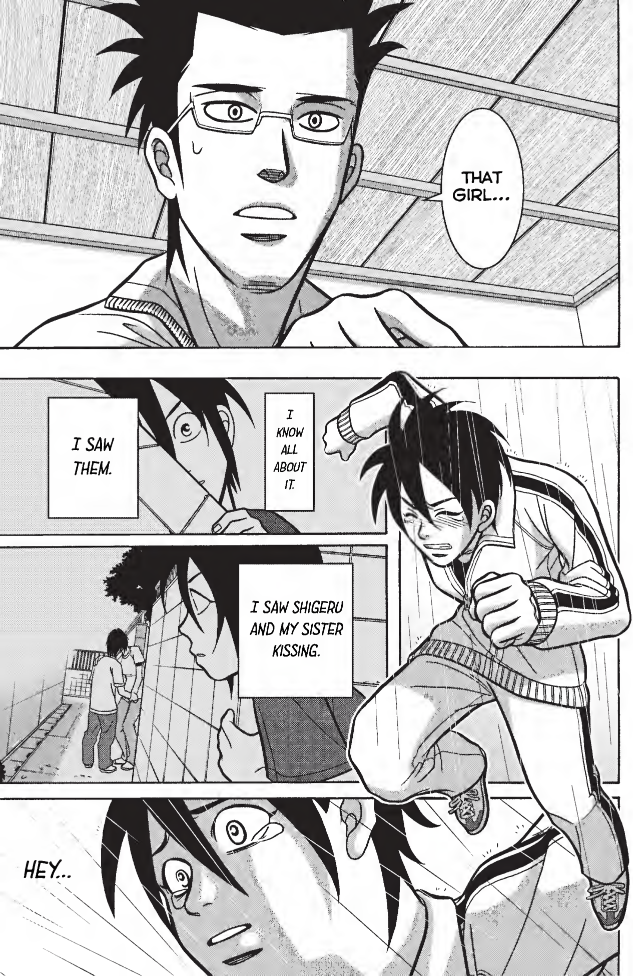

ゴロゴロ…
PURR PURR
KYOGOKU
I WONDER IF KOYUKI'S LEG IS OKAY...
I COULD CALL HER...
THEN AGAIN, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ANYONE'S NUMBER, MUCH LESS KOYUKI'S.
WAIT. COME TO THINK OF IT, I THINK CHIYO TOOK MY PHONE AND PUT HERS IN ONCE...
GIVE IT TO SHIKISHIMA-KUN!
MAKES SENSE, I GUESS.
I DID DECIDE NOT TO MAKE ANY FRIENDS, AFTER ALL.
I MEAN...
...EVEN IF I DID KNOW HER NUMBER, I COULDN'T CALL HER.

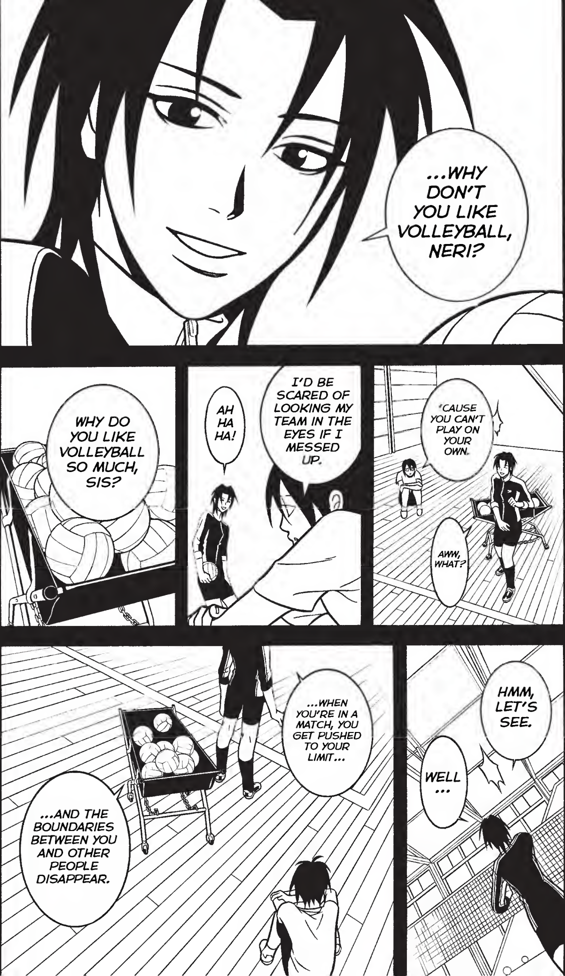

IS NERI HOME?
WELL, YOU SEE, SHIGERU-CHAN...
...SHE WON'T COME OUT OF HER ROOM AT ALL.
AND HER TREATMENT'S NOT EVEN OVER YET...
7
8
9
10
DAMN IT, NERI!
I'VE HAD ABOUT ENOUGH OF THIS!
11
12

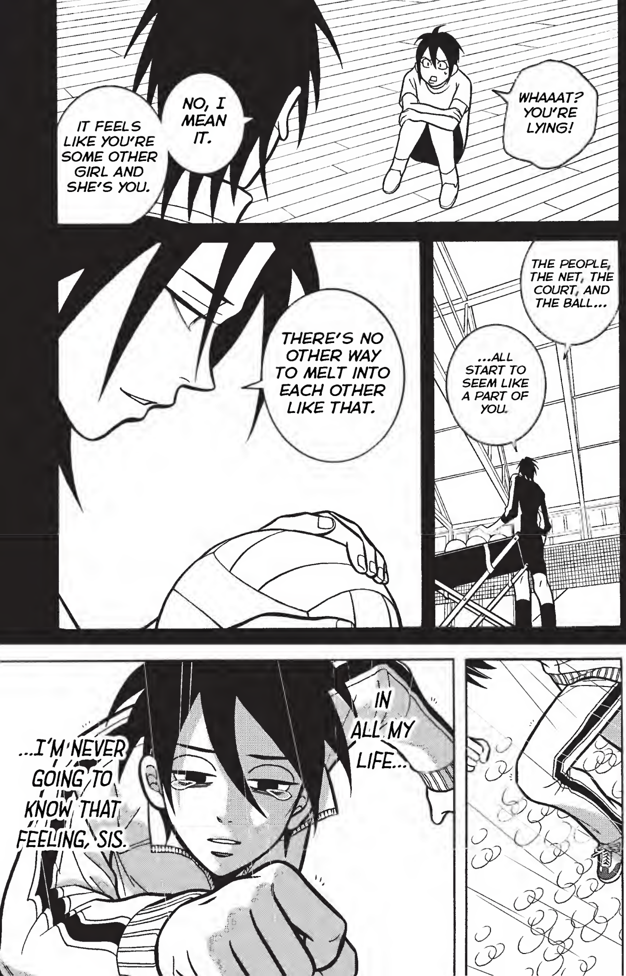

CAN YOU DO IT, SHIGERU-CHAN?
I'LL BE FINE.
THERE WE GO.
カラッ
SHMP
HEY, NERI.
YOU'VE GOTTA—

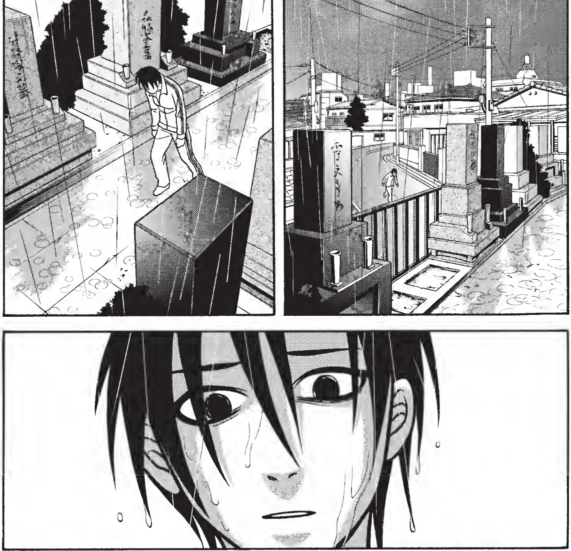

NERI, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING FLAKING ON YOUR TREATMENTS?
...
YOU'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE ALREADY.
YOU'LL GET BEDSORES AT THIS RATE.
Y'KNOW, I'VE BEEN WATCHING THIS, AND I NOTICED SOMETHING.
THIS SETTER, FUEKO JINNAI? SHE GIVES MY SISTER THE BALL TOO MUCH.
SHE KNEW DAMN WELL THAT SIS HAD HURT HER LEG.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR HER, I THINK SHE'D HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DODGE THAT CAR.
FWICK


IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, THEN I GUESS THAT'S HOW IT IS...
...IN YOUR HEART.
...WHAT THE HELL?
I KNOW YOU LIKED MY SISTER, SHIGERU!
NOW YOU WANNA FORGET ABOUT HER JUST LIKE THAT?!
NERI.
DASH

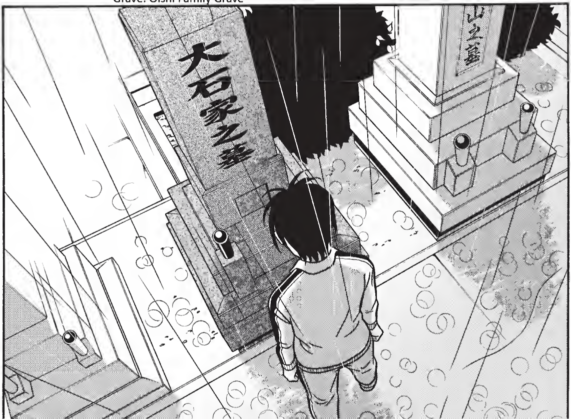

THAT GIRL...
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.
I SAW THEM.
I SAW SHIGERU AND MY SISTER KISSING.
HEY...

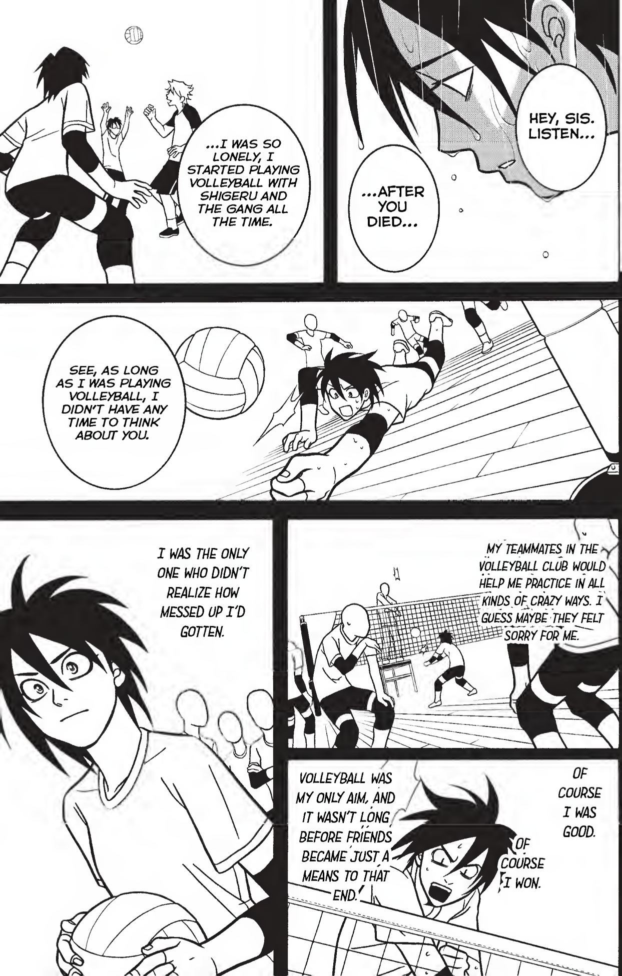

...WHY DON'T YOU LIKE VOLLEYBALL, NERI?
'CAUSE YOU CAN'T PLAY ON YOUR OWN.
AWW, WHAT?
I'D BE SCARED OF LOOKING MY TEAM IN THE EYES IF I MESSED UP.
AH HA HA!
WHY DO YOU LIKE VOLLEYBALL SO MUCH, SIS?
HMM, LET'S SEE.
WELL...
...WHEN YOU'RE IN A MATCH, YOU GET PUSHED TO YOUR LIMIT...
...AND THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN YOU AND OTHER PEOPLE DISAPPEAR.

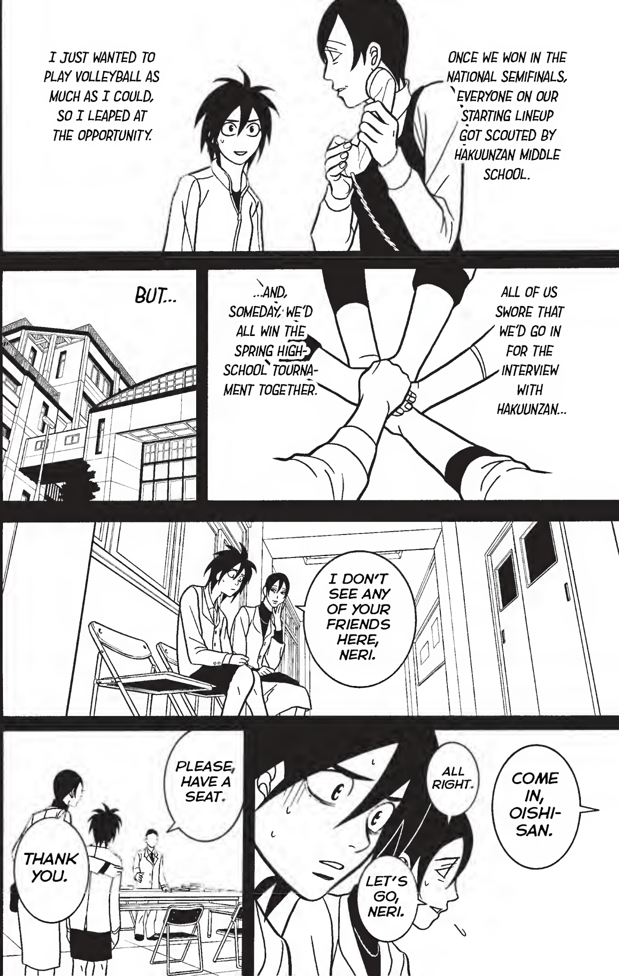

WHAAAT? YOU'RE LYING!
NO, I MEAN IT.
IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE SOME OTHER GIRL AND SHE'S YOU.
THE PEOPLE, THE NET, THE COURT, AND THE BALL...
...ALL START TO SEEM LIKE A PART OF YOU.
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO MELT INTO EACH OTHER LIKE THAT.
IN ALL MY LIFE...
...I'M NEVER GOING TO KNOW THAT FEELING, SIS.

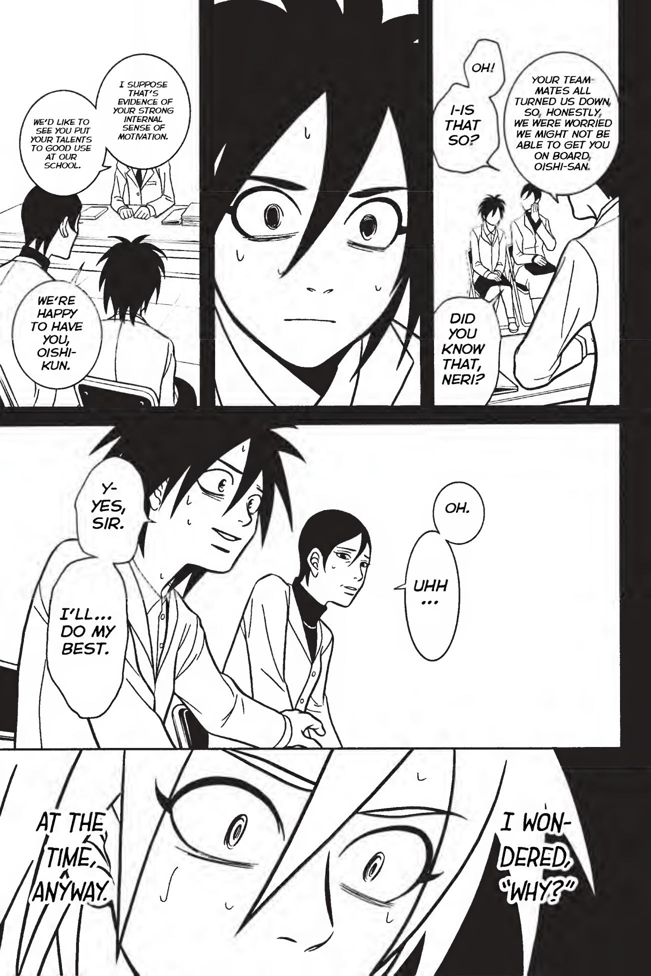


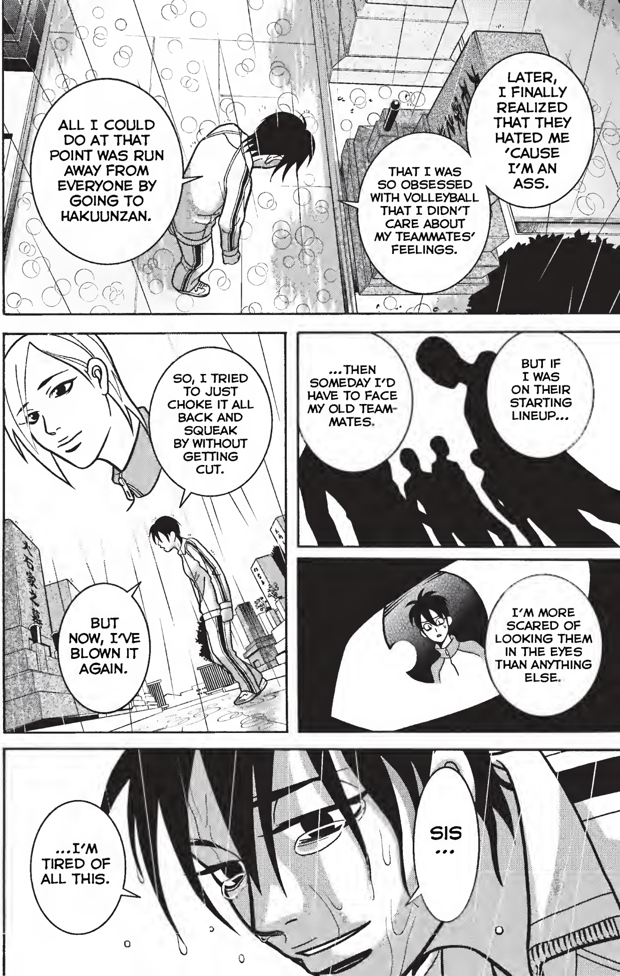
Grave: Oishi Family Grave

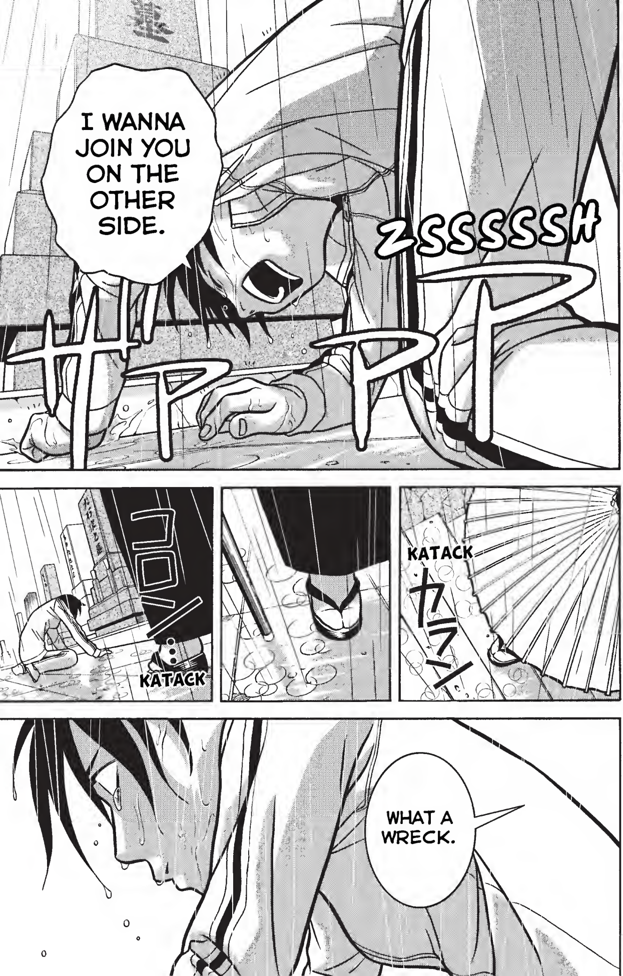


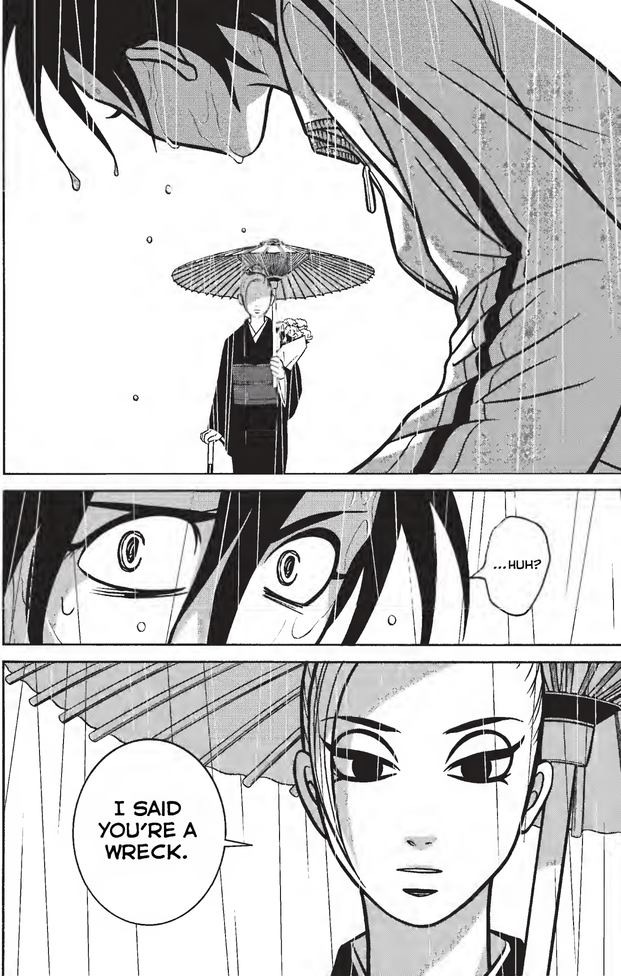

HEY, SIS. LISTEN...
...AFTER YOU DIED...
...I WAS SO LONELY, I STARTED PLAYING VOLLEYBALL WITH SHIGERU AND THE GANG ALL THE TIME.
SEE, AS LONG AS I WAS PLAYING VOLLEYBALL, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY TIME TO THINK ABOUT YOU.
MY TEAMMATES IN THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB WOULD HELP ME PRACTICE IN ALL KINDS OF CRAZY WAYS. I GUESS MAYBE THEY FELT SORRY FOR ME.
OF COURSE I WAS GOOD.
OF COURSE I WON.
VOLLEYBALL WAS MY ONLY AIM, AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE FRIENDS BECAME JUST A MEANS TO THAT END.
I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MESSED UP I'D GOTTEN.

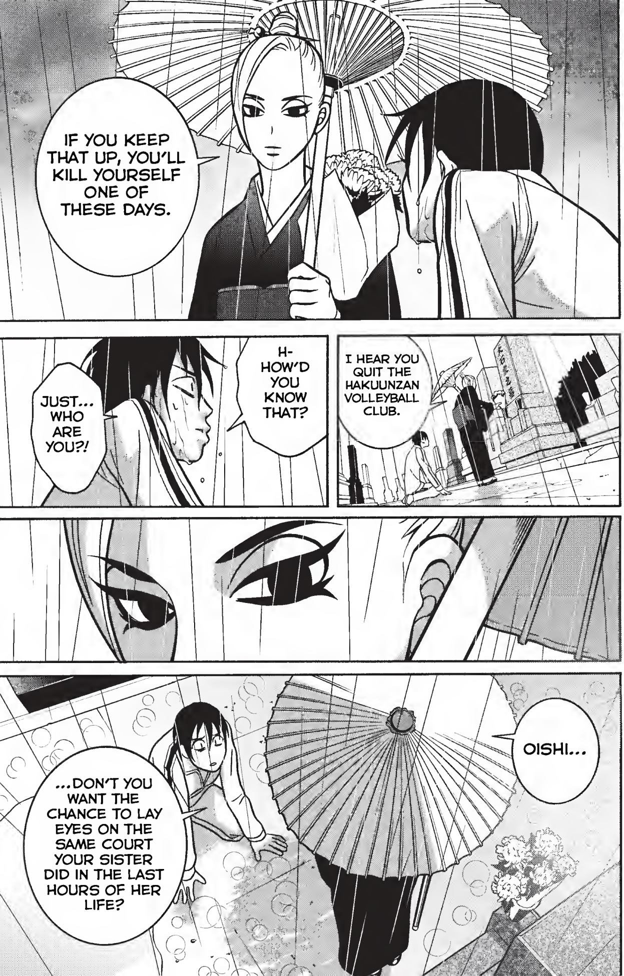

ONCE WE WON IN THE NATIONAL SEMIFINALS, EVERYONE ON OUR STARTING LINEUP GOT SCOUTED BY HAKUUNZAN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
I JUST WANTED TO PLAY VOLLEYBALL AS MUCH AS I COULD, SO I LEAPED AT THE OPPORTUNITY.
ALL OF US SWORE THAT WE'D GO IN FOR THE INTERVIEW WITH HAKUUNZAN...
...AND, SOMEDAY, WE'D ALL WIN THE SPRING HIGH-SCHOOL TOURNAMENT TOGETHER.
BUT...
I DON'T SEE ANY OF YOUR FRIENDS HERE, NERI.
COME IN, OISHI-SAN.
ALL RIGHT.
LET'S GO, NERI.
PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.
THANK YOU.

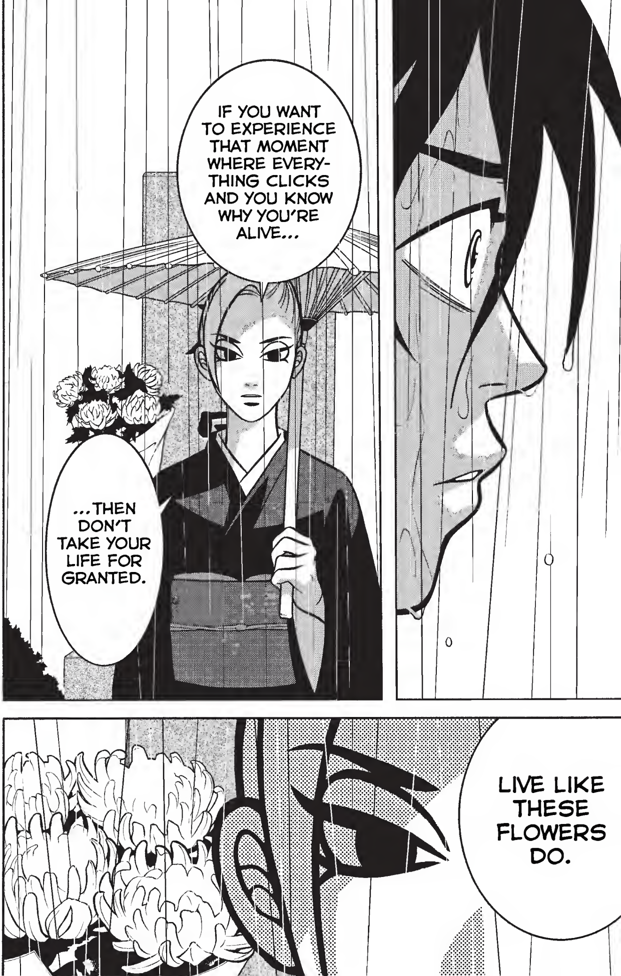

YOUR TEAMMATES ALL TURNED US DOWN, SO, HONESTLY, WE WERE WORRIED WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GET YOU ON BOARD, OISHI-SAN.
OH!
I-IS THAT SO?
DID YOU KNOW THAT, NERI?
I SUPPOSE THAT'S EVIDENCE OF YOUR STRONG INTERNAL SENSE OF MOTIVATION.
WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU PUT YOUR TALENTS TO GOOD USE AT OUR SCHOOL.
WE'RE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU, OISHI-KUN.
OH.
UHH...
Y-YES, SIR.
I'LL... DO MY BEST.
I WONDERED, "WHY?"
AT THE TIME, ANYWAY.

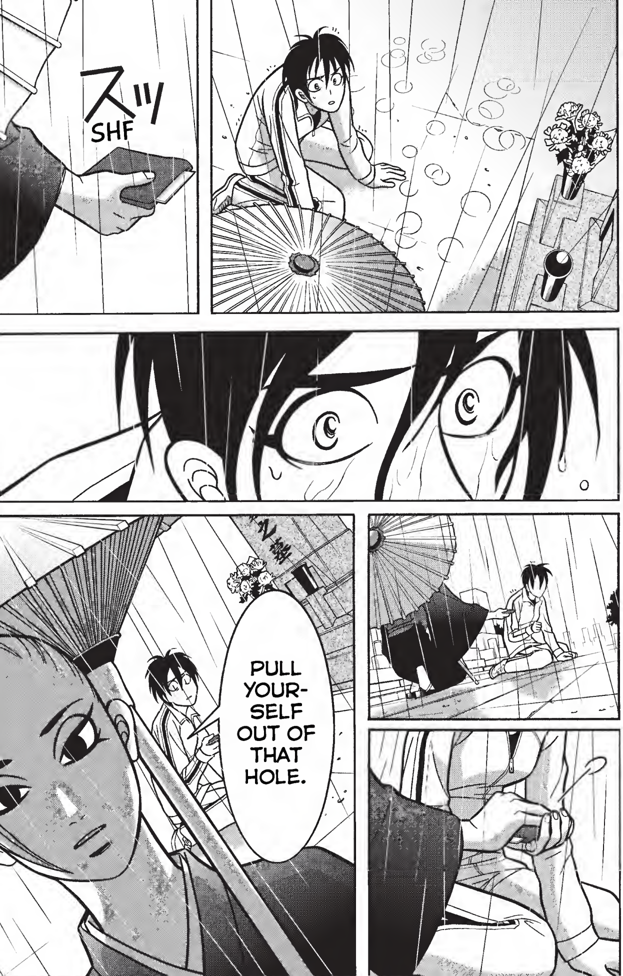

LATER, I FINALLY REALIZED THAT THEY HATED ME 'CAUSE I'M AN ASS.
THAT I WAS SO OBSESSED WITH VOLLEYBALL THAT I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT MY TEAMMATES' FEELINGS.
ALL I COULD DO AT THAT POINT WAS RUN AWAY FROM EVERYONE BY GOING TO HAKUUNZAN.
BUT IF I WAS ON THEIR STARTING LINEUP...
...THEN SOMEDAY I'D HAVE TO FACE MY OLD TEAMMATES.
I'M MORE SCARED OF LOOKING THEM IN THE EYES THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
SO, I TRIED TO JUST CHOKE IT ALL BACK AND SQUEAK BY WITHOUT GETTING CUT.
BUT NOW, I'VE BLOWN IT AGAIN.
SIS...
...I'M TIRED OF ALL THIS.

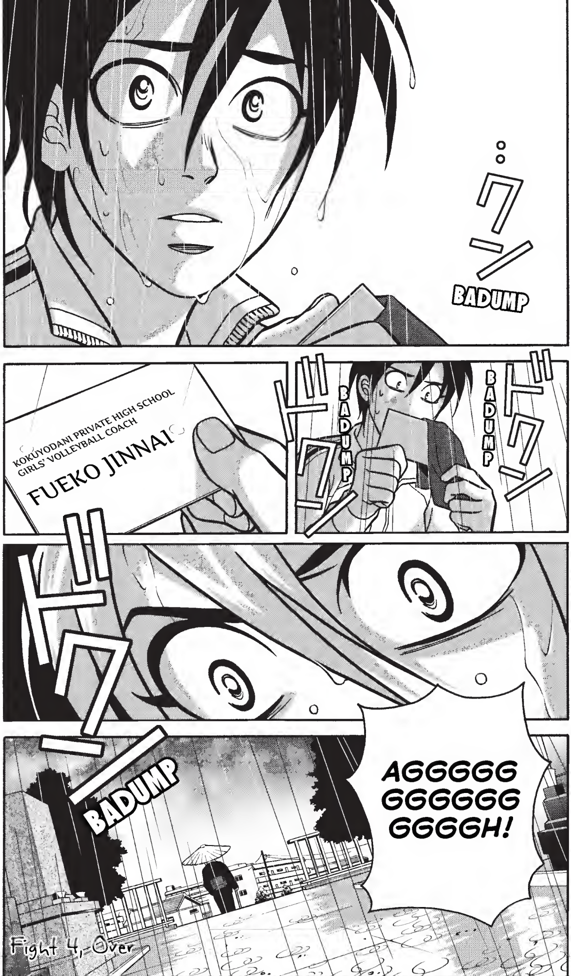

I WANNA JOIN YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE.
ZSSSSSH
HIPPP
KATACK
カラン
コロン
KATACK
WHAT A WRECK.


...HUH?
I SAID YOU'RE A WRECK.

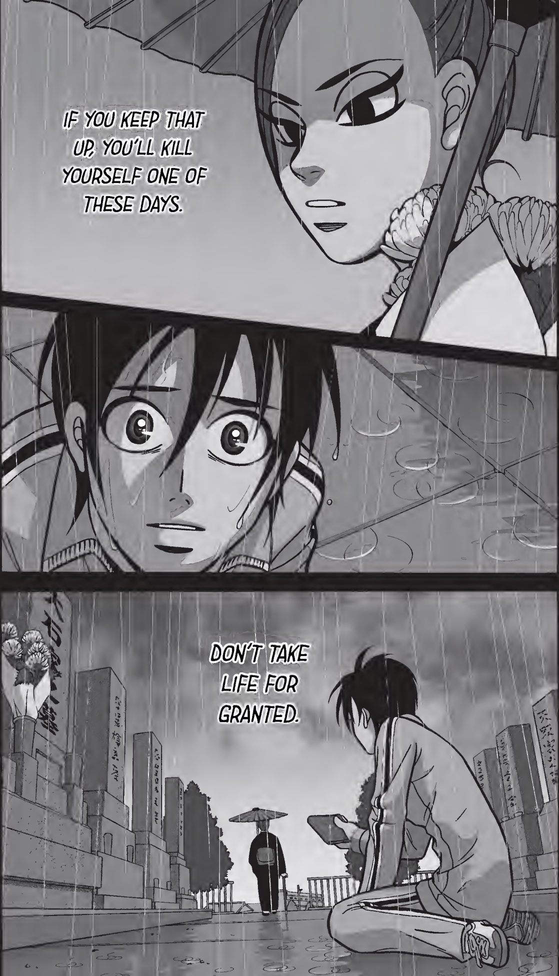

IF YOU KEEP THAT UP, YOU'LL KILL YOURSELF ONE OF THESE DAYS.
I HEAR YOU QUIT THE HAKUUNZAN VOLLEYBALL CLUB.
H- HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?
JUST... WHO ARE YOU?!
OISHI...
...DON'T YOU WANT THE CHANCE TO LAY EYES ON THE SAME COURT YOUR SISTER DID IN THE LAST HOURS OF HER LIFE?

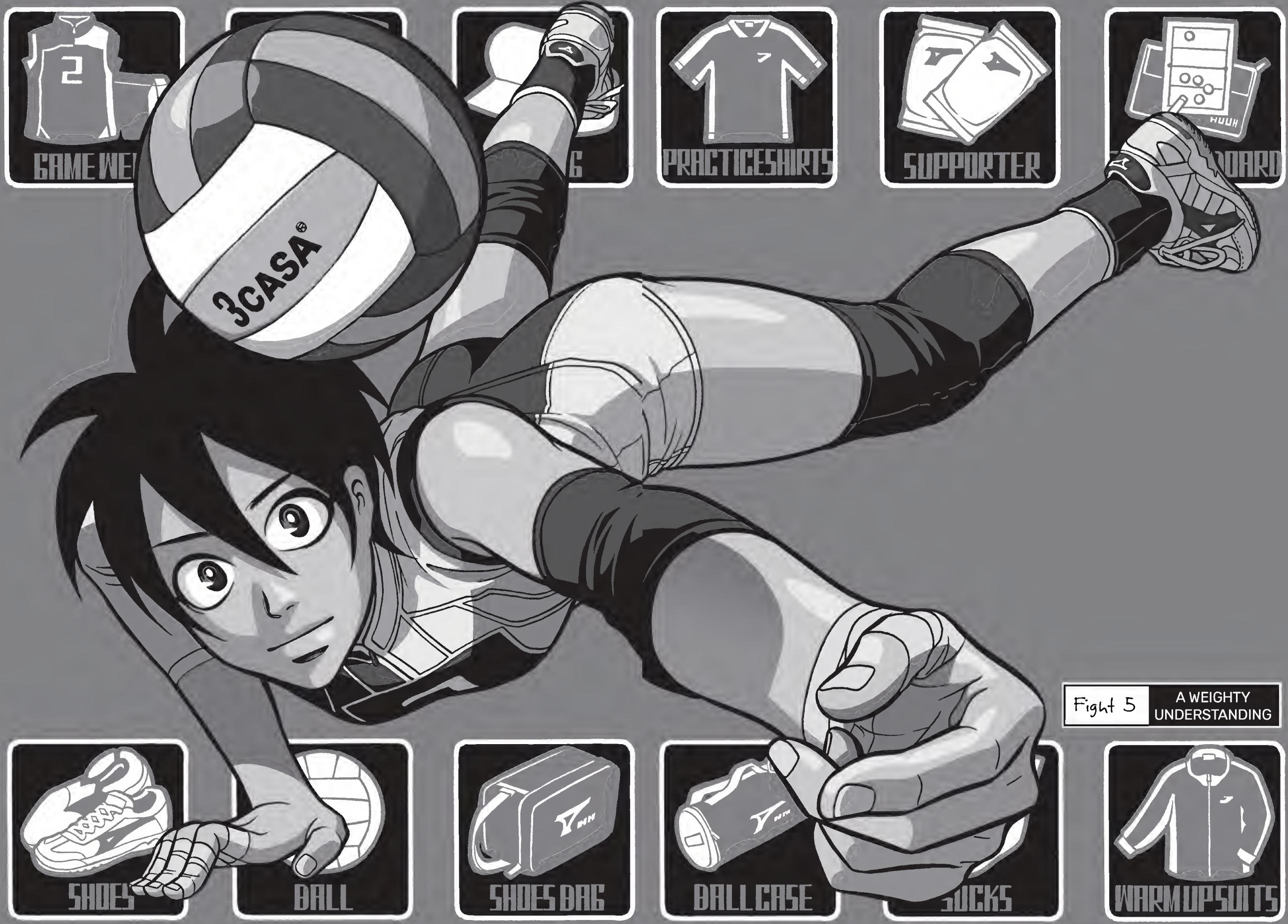

IF YOU WANT TO EXPERIENCE THAT MOMENT WHERE EVERYTHING CLICKS AND YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE ALIVE...
...THEN DON'T TAKE YOUR LIFE FOR GRANTED.
LIVE LIKE THESE FLOWERS DO.


スッ
SHF
之墓
PULL YOURSELF OUT OF THAT HOLE.



クン
BADUMP
ドクン
BADUMP
ドクン
BADUMP
KOKUYODANI PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL COACH
FUEKO JINNAI
ドクン
BADUMP
AGGGGG
GGGGGG
GGGGH!
Fight 4, Over

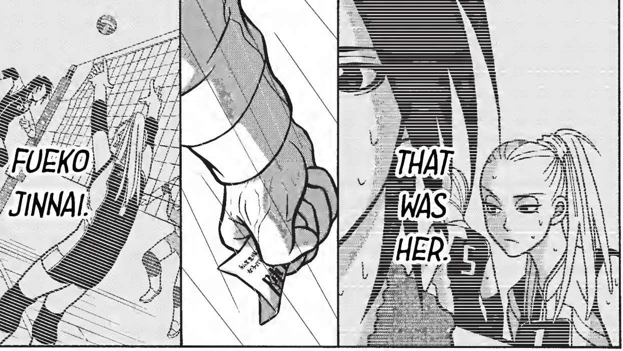

IF YOU KEEP THAT UP, YOU'LL KILL YOURSELF ONE OF THESE DAYS.
DON'T TAKE LIFE FOR GRANTED.


GAME WE
G
PRACTICESHIRTS
SUPPORTER
OARD
3CASA
SHOES
BALL
SHOES BAG
BALL CASE
CKS
WARM UP SUITS

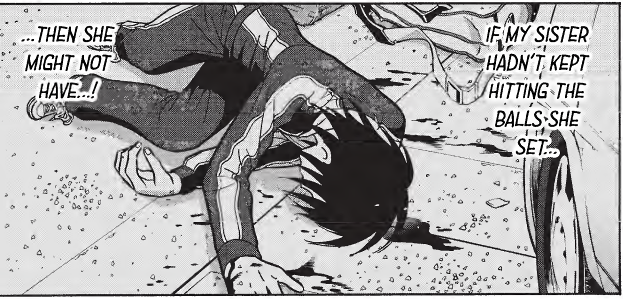
## Fight 5

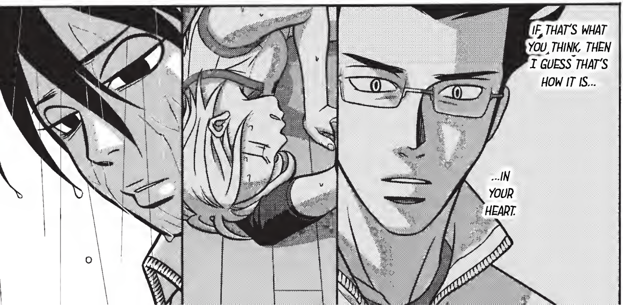
## A WEIGHTY UNDERSTANDING

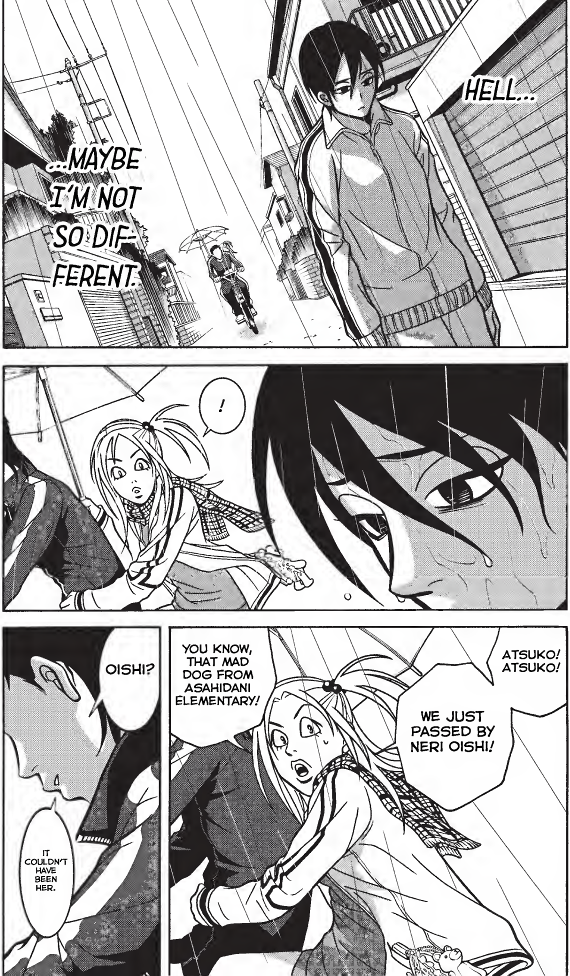
Shojo FIGHT!

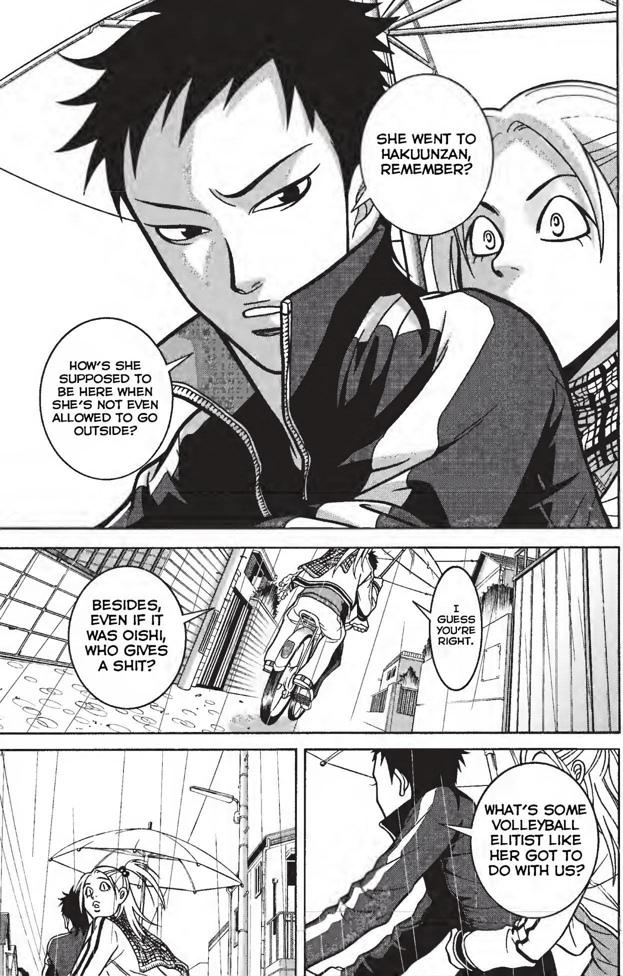

THAT WAS HER.
FUEKO JINNAI.

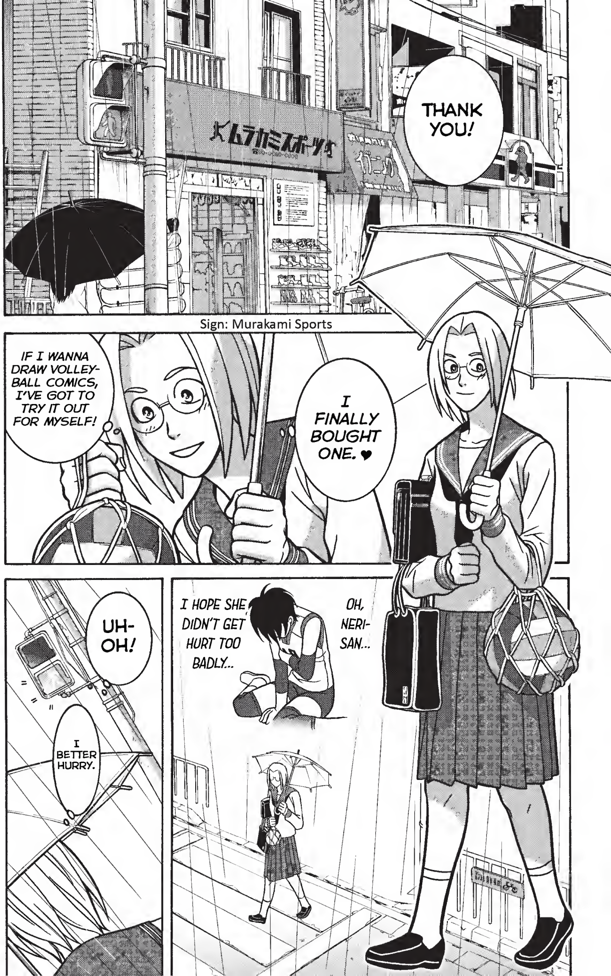
Card: Fue


IF MY SISTER HADN'T KEPT HITTING THE BALLS SHE SET...
...THEN SHE MIGHT NOT HAVE...!

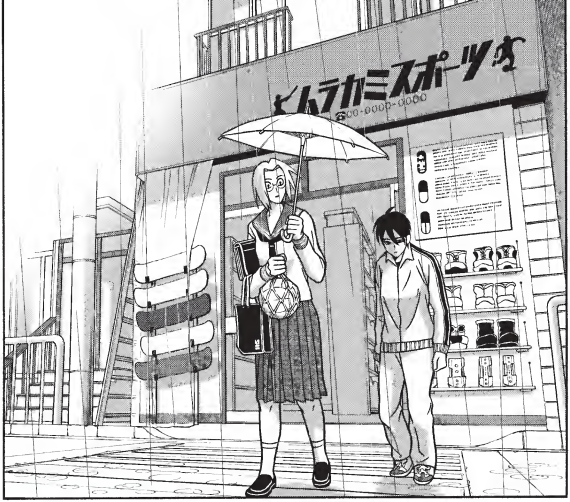

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, THEN I GUESS THAT'S HOW IT IS...
...IN YOUR HEART.


HELL...
...MAYBE I'M NOT SO DIFFERENT.
!
ATSUKO! ATSUKO!
WE JUST PASSED BY NERI OISHI!
YOU KNOW, THAT MAD DOG FROM ASAHIDANI ELEMENTARY!
OISHI?
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HER.

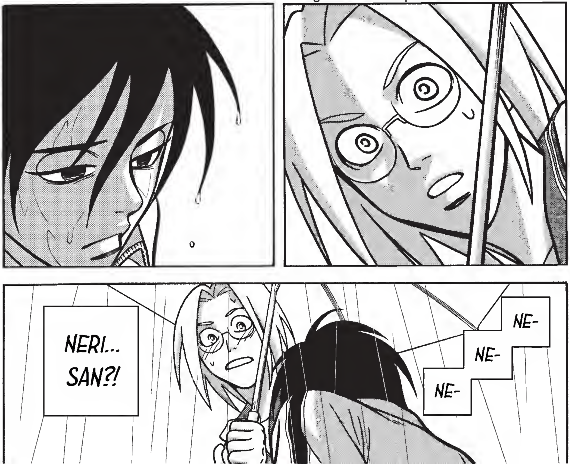

HOW'S SHE SUPPOSED TO BE HERE WHEN SHE'S NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO GO OUTSIDE?
SHE WENT TO HAKUUNZAN, REMEMBER?
BESIDES, EVEN IF IT WAS OISHI, WHO GIVES A SHIT?
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHAT'S SOME VOLLEYBALL ELITIST LIKE HER GOT TO DO WITH US?

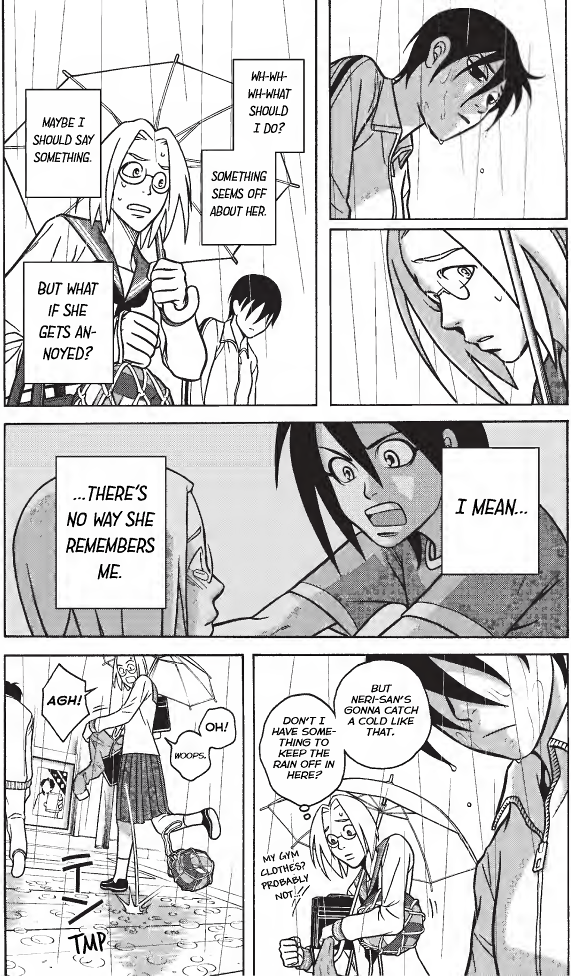

THANK YOU!
ムラカミスポーツ
I FINALLY BOUGHT ONE. ♥
IF I WANNA DRAW VOLLEYBALL COMICS, I'VE GOT TO TRY IT OUT FOR MYSELF!
OH, NERI-SAN...
I HOPE SHE DIDN'T GET HURT TOO BADLY...
UH-OH!
I BETTER HURRY.

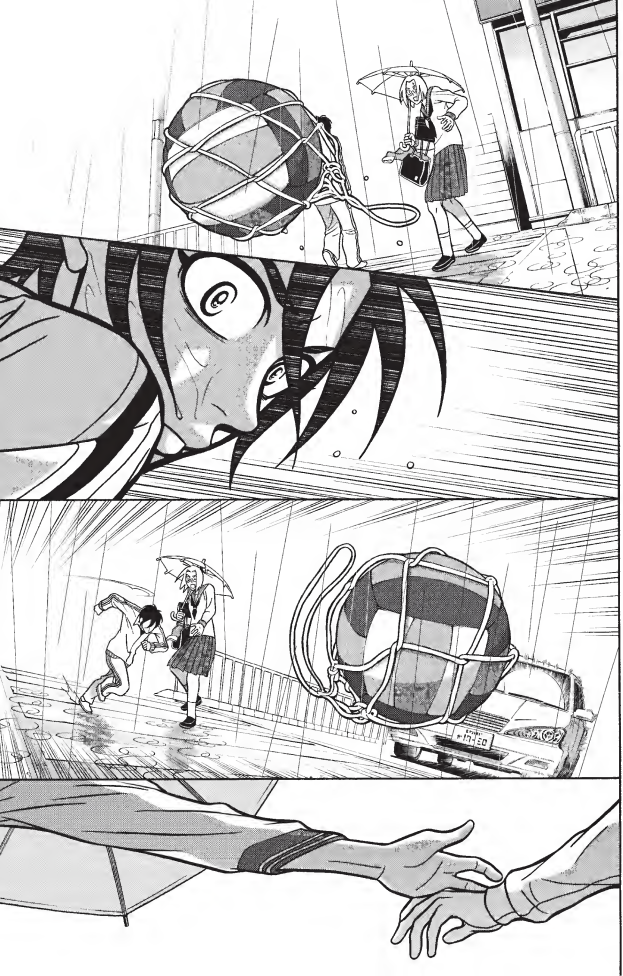
Sign: Murakami Sports

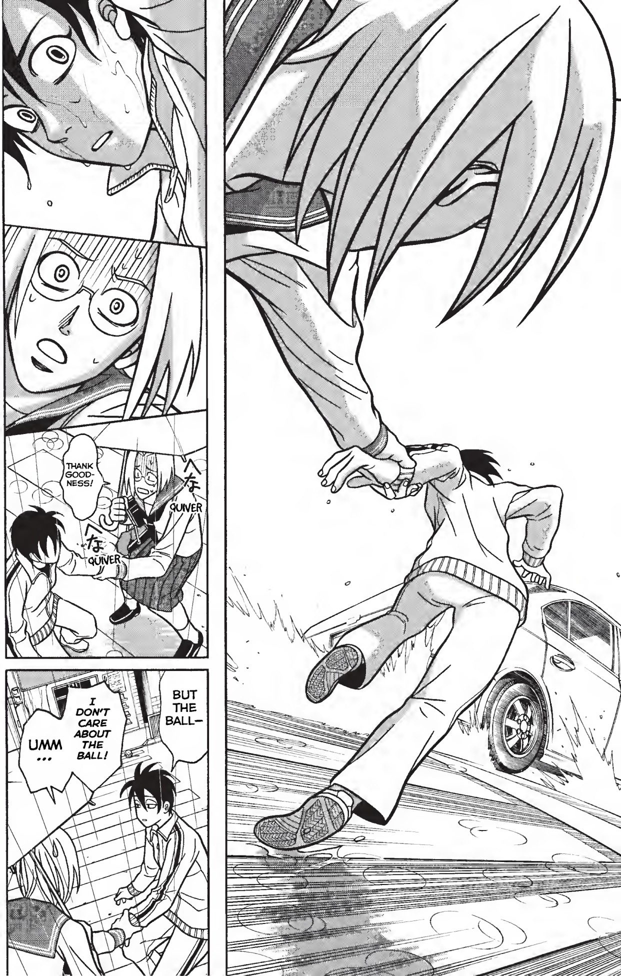

ムラカミスポーツ
00-0000-0000

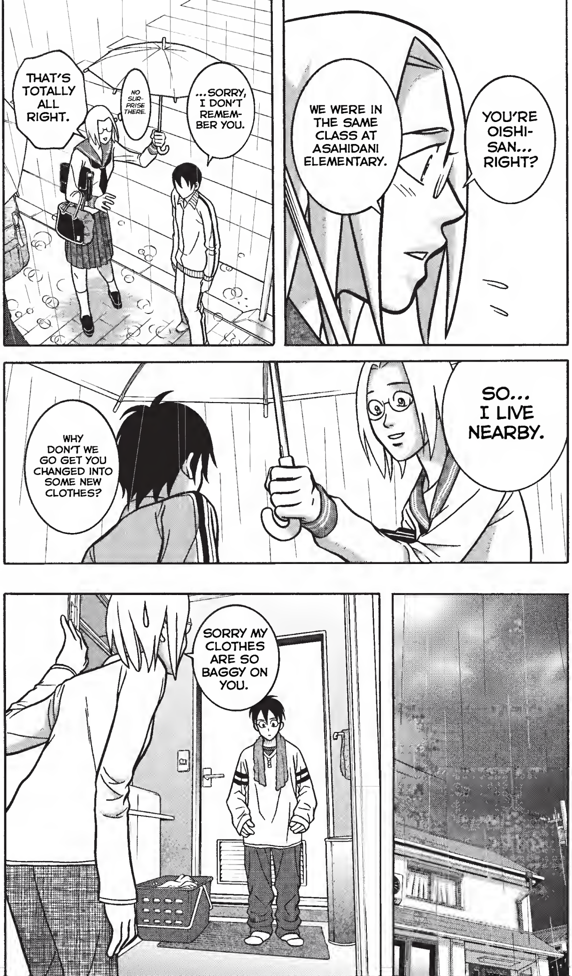
Sign: Murakami Sports

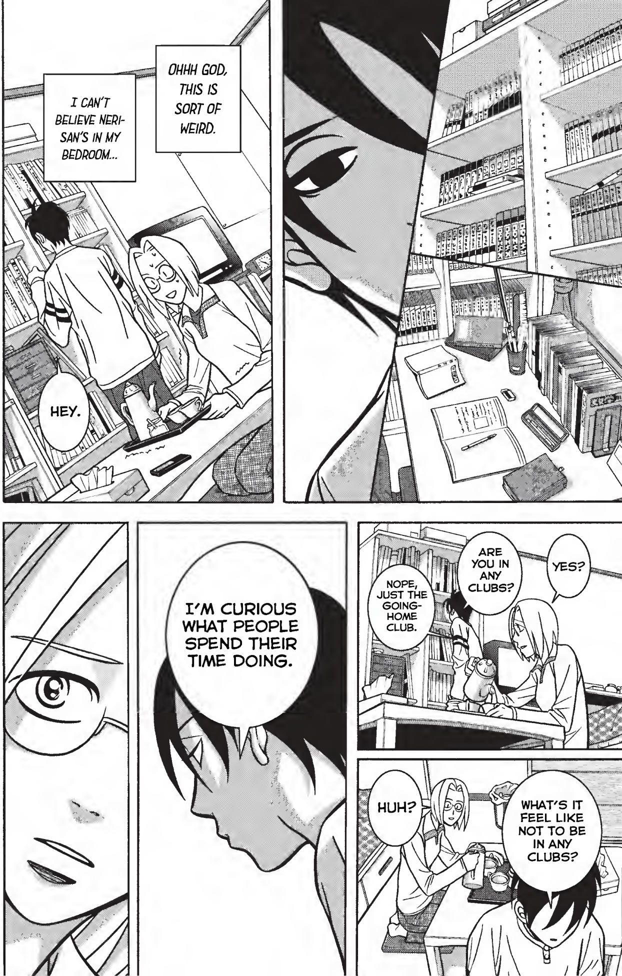

NE-
NE-
NE-
NERI... SAN?!

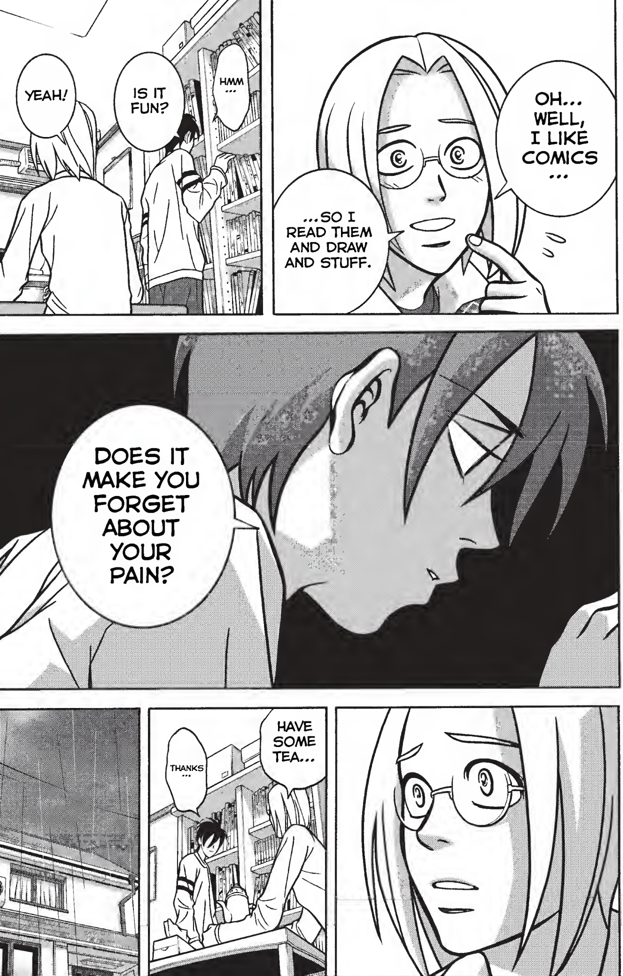

WH-WH-WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SOMETHING SEEMS OFF ABOUT HER.
MAYBE I SHOULD SAY SOMETHING.
BUT WHAT IF SHE GETS ANNOYED?
I MEAN...
...THERE'S NO WAY SHE REMEMBERS ME.
BUT NERI-SAN'S GONNA CATCH A COLD LIKE THAT.
DON'T I HAVE SOMETHING TO KEEP THE RAIN OFF IN HERE?
MY GYM CLOTHES? PROBABLY NOT!
OH!
WOOPS.
AGH!
TMP

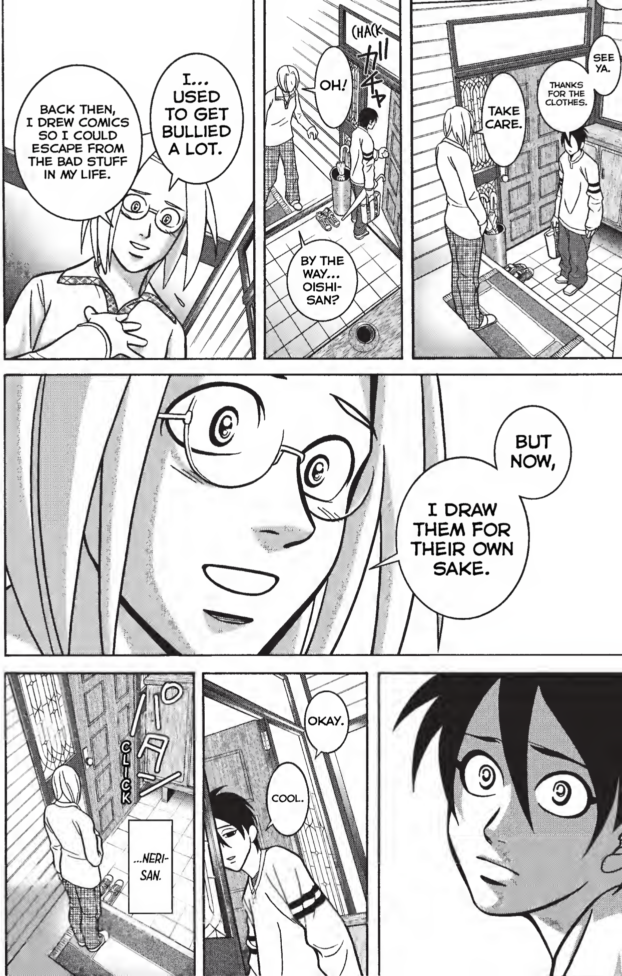


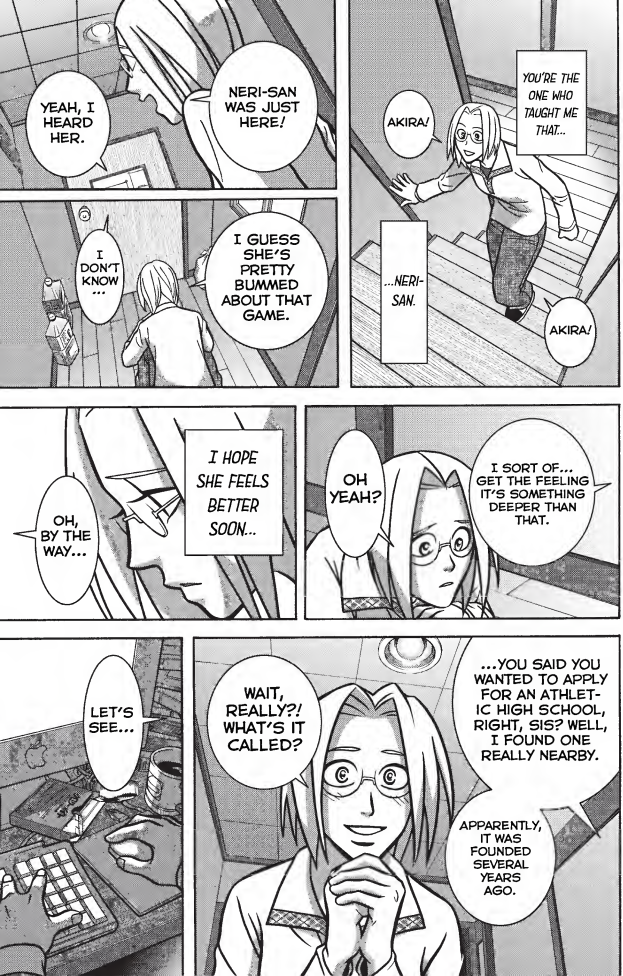

THANK GOODNESS!
へな QUIVER
へな QUIVER
BUT THE BALL—
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE BALL!
UMM...

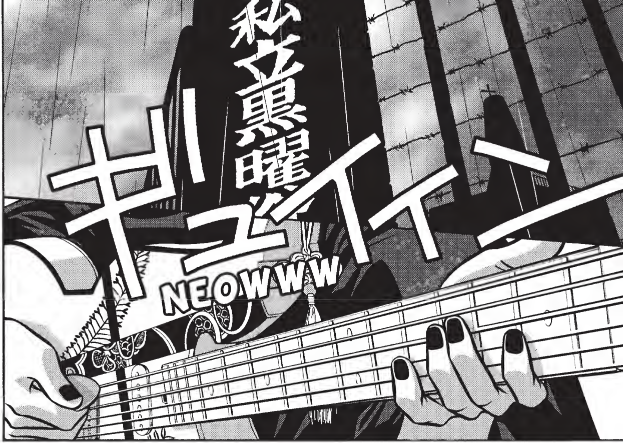

YOU'RE OISHI-SAN... RIGHT?
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS AT ASAHIDANI ELEMENTARY.
...SORRY, I DON'T REMEMBER YOU.
NO SURPRISE THERE.
THAT'S TOTALLY ALL RIGHT.
SO... I LIVE NEARBY.
WHY DON'T WE GO GET YOU CHANGED INTO SOME NEW CLOTHES?
SORRY MY CLOTHES ARE SO BAGGY ON YOU.


OHHH GOD, THIS IS SORT OF WEIRD.
I CAN'T BELIEVE NERI-SAN'S IN MY BEDROOM...
HEY.
YES?
ARE YOU IN ANY CLUBS?
NOPE, JUST THE GOING-HOME CLUB.
WHAT'S IT FEEL LIKE NOT TO BE IN ANY CLUBS?
HUH?
I'M CURIOUS WHAT PEOPLE SPEND THEIR TIME DOING.

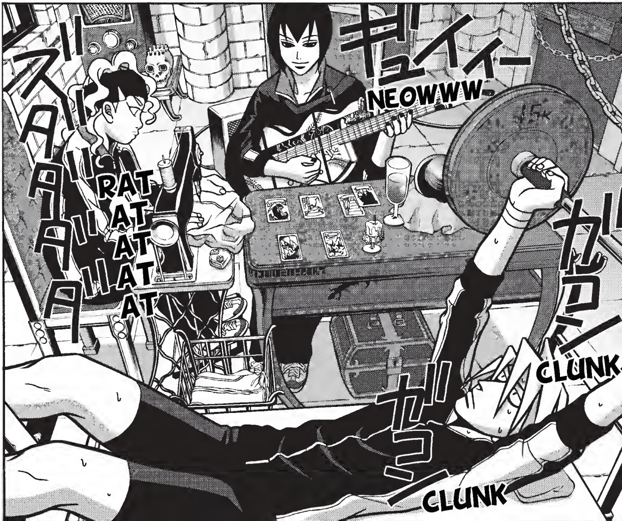

OH... WELL, I LIKE COMICS...
...SO I READ THEM AND DRAW AND STUFF.
HMM...
IS IT FUN?
YEAH!
DOES IT MAKE YOU FORGET ABOUT YOUR PAIN?
HAVE SOME TEA...
THANKS...

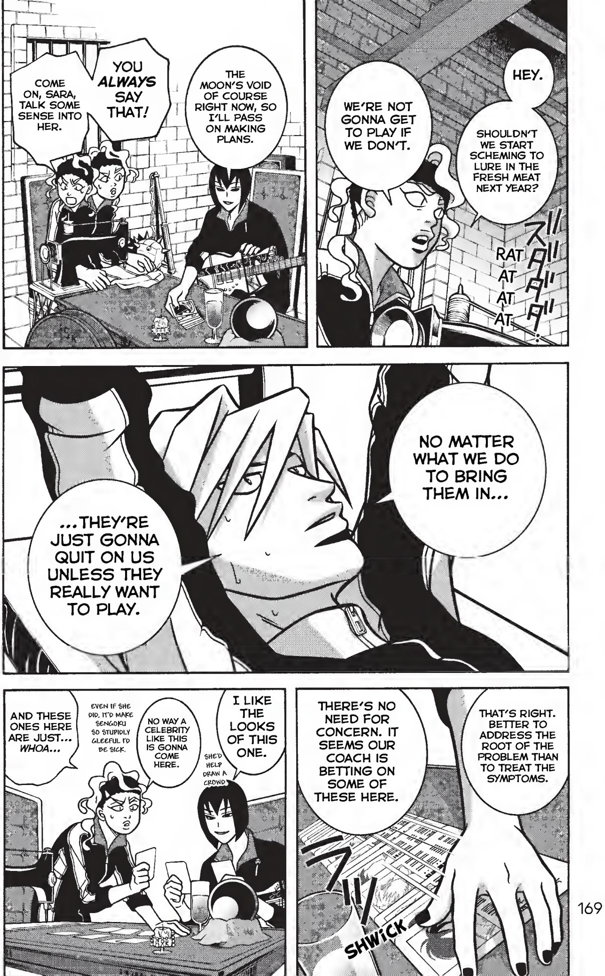

SEE YA.
THANKS FOR THE CLOTHES.
TAKE CARE.
CHACK
OH!
BY THE WAY... OISHI-SAN?
I... USED TO GET BULLIED A LOT.
BACK THEN, I DREW COMICS SO I COULD ESCAPE FROM THE BAD STUFF IN MY LIFE.
BUT NOW,
I DRAW THEM FOR THEIR OWN SAKE.
OKAY.
COOL.
CLICK
...NERI-SAN.


NERI-SAN WAS JUST HERE!
YEAH, I HEARD HER.
I GUESS SHE'S PRETTY BUMMED ABOUT THAT GAME.
I DON'T KNOW...
...NERI-SAN.
AKIRA!
AKIRA!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME THAT...
I HOPE SHE FEELS BETTER SOON...
OH, BY THE WAY...
OH YEAH?
I SORT OF... GET THE FEELING IT'S SOMETHING DEEPER THAN THAT.
LET'S SEE...
...YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO APPLY FOR AN ATHLETIC HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT, SIS? WELL, I FOUND ONE REALLY NEARBY.
WAIT, REALLY?! WHAT'S IT CALLED?
APPARENTLY, IT WAS FOUNDED SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

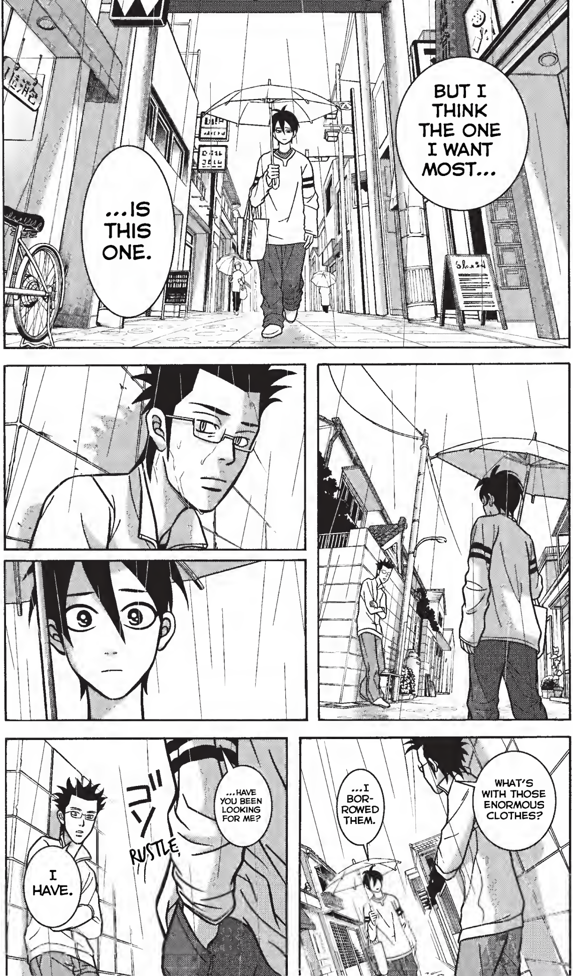

私立黒曜
ギュイイーン
NEOWWW

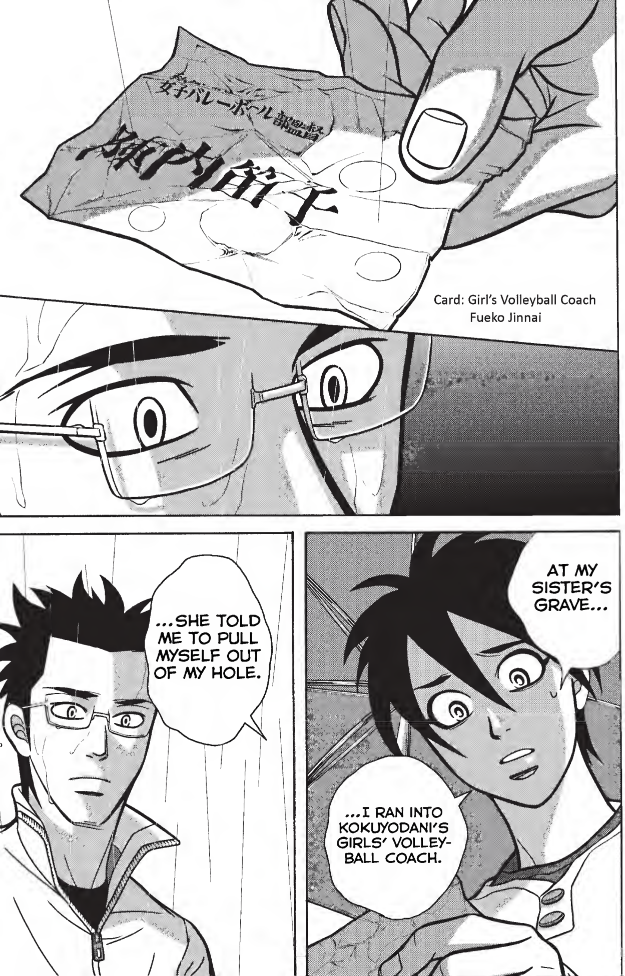
Gate: Kokuyodani Private High


ギュイィー
NEOWWW
ガコン
CLUNK
ガコン
CLUNK
ズダダダダダ
RATATATATAT

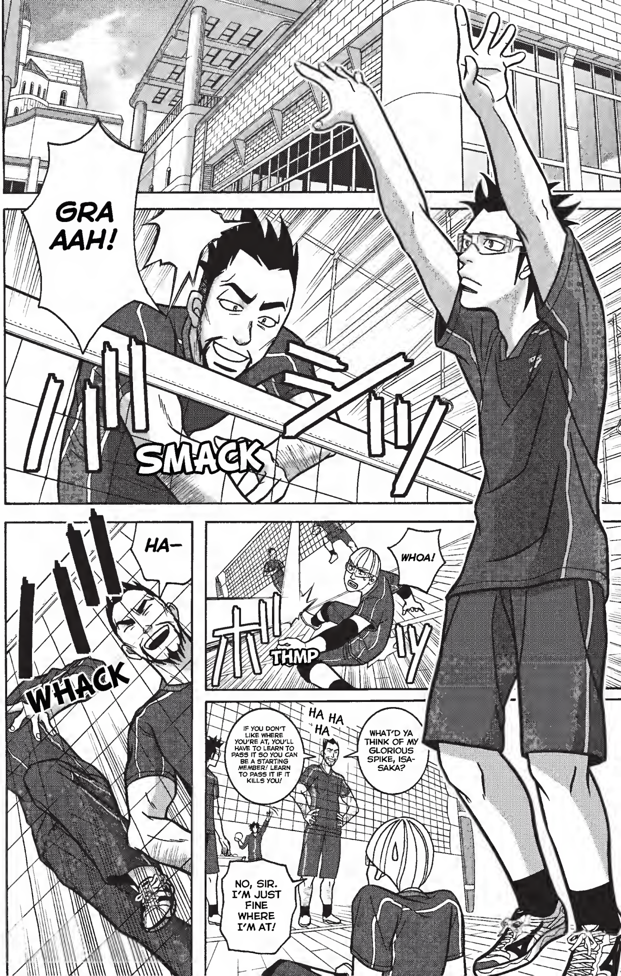

HEY.
SHOULDN'T WE START SCHEMING TO LURE IN THE FRESH MEAT NEXT YEAR?
WE'RE NOT GONNA GET TO PLAY IF WE DON'T.
ズダダダ
RAT AT AT AT
THE MOON'S VOID OF COURSE RIGHT NOW, SO I'LL PASS ON MAKING PLANS.
YOU *ALWAYS* SAY THAT!
COME ON, SARA, TALK SOME SENSE INTO HER.
NO MATTER WHAT WE DO TO BRING THEM IN...
...THEY'RE JUST GONNA QUIT ON US UNLESS THEY REALLY WANT TO PLAY.
THAT'S RIGHT. BETTER TO ADDRESS THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM THAN TO TREAT THE SYMPTOMS.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR CONCERN. IT SEEMS OUR COACH IS BETTING ON SOME OF THESE HERE.
SHWICK
I LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS ONE.
SHE'D HELP DRAW A CROWD.
NO WAY A CELEBRITY LIKE THIS IS GONNA COME HERE.
EVEN IF SHE DID, IT'D MAKE SENGOKU SO STUPIDLY GLEEFUL I'D BE SICK.
AND THESE ONES HERE ARE JUST... *WHOA...*

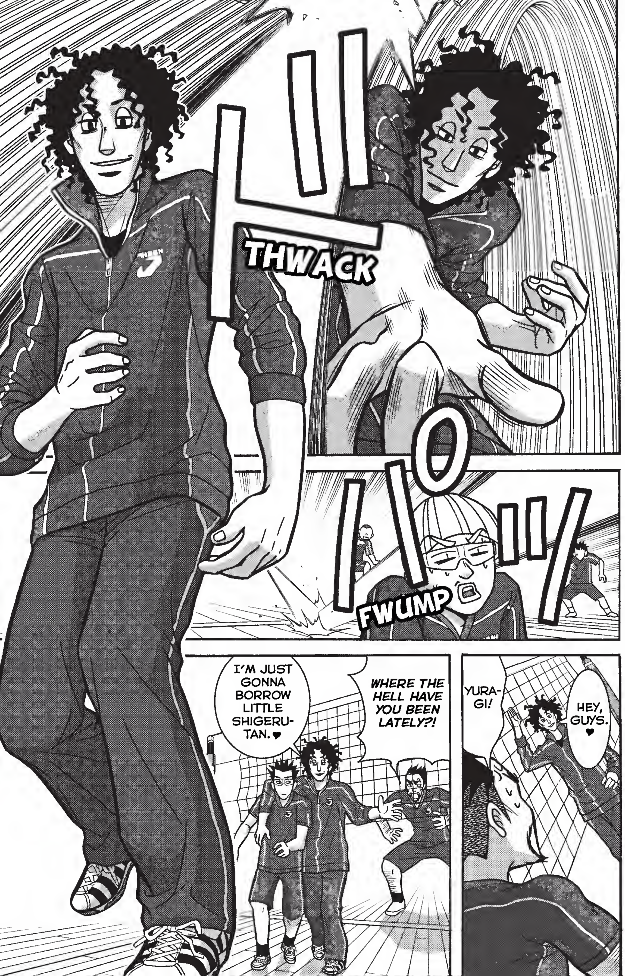
* While the moon is void of course (between astrological signs), it is said to decrease people's ability to reason to cause their plans to fail.

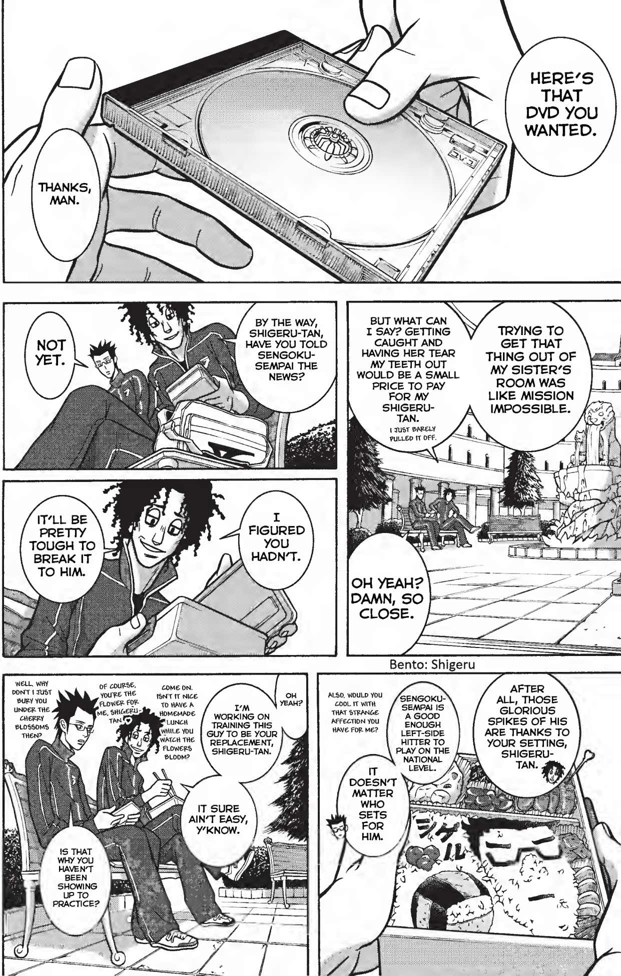

BUT I THINK THE ONE I WANT MOST...
...IS THIS ONE.
WHAT'S WITH THOSE ENORMOUS CLOTHES?
...I BORROWED THEM.
...HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING FOR ME?
ゴソ
RUSTLE
I HAVE.


女子バレーボール部監督
陣内笛子
AT MY SISTER'S GRAVE...
...I RAN INTO KOKUYODANI'S GIRLS' VOLLEY-BALL COACH.
...SHE TOLD ME TO PULL MYSELF OUT OF MY HOLE.

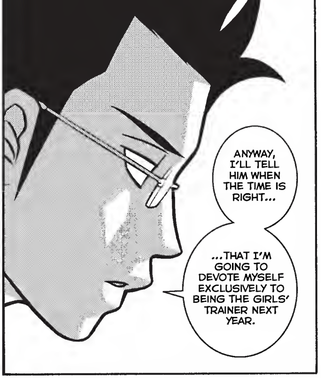
Card: Girl's Volleyball Coach
Fueko Jinnai

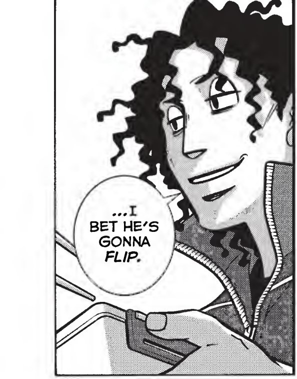

GRA AAH!
SMACK
HA-
WHACK
WHOA!
THMP
WHAT'D YA THINK OF MY GLORIOUS SPIKE, ISA-SAKA?
HA HA HA
IF YOU DON'T LIKE WHERE YOU'RE AT, YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN TO PASS IT SO YOU CAN BE A STARTING MEMBER! LEARN TO PASS IT IF IT KILLS YOU!
NO, SIR. I'M JUST FINE WHERE I'M AT!

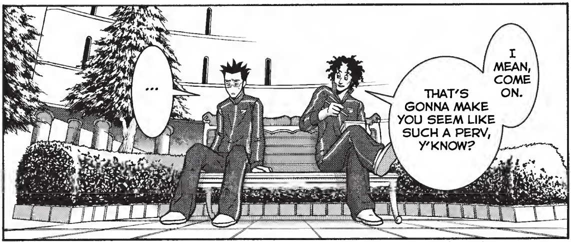

THWACK
FWUMP
HEY, GUYS. ♥
YURA-GI!
WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN LATELY?!
I'M JUST GONNA BORROW LITTLE SHIGERU-TAN. ♥

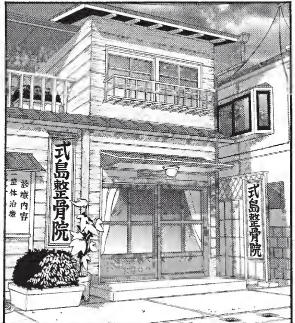

HERE'S THAT DVD YOU WANTED.
THANKS, MAN.
TRYING TO GET THAT THING OUT OF MY SISTER'S ROOM WAS LIKE MISSION IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT WHAT CAN I SAY? GETTING CAUGHT AND HAVING HER TEAR MY TEETH OUT WOULD BE A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR MY SHIGERU-TAN.
I JUST BARELY PULLED IT OFF.
OH YEAH? DAMN, SO CLOSE.
BY THE WAY, SHIGERU-TAN, HAVE YOU TOLD SENGOKU-SEMPAI THE NEWS?
NOT YET.
I FIGURED YOU HADN'T.
IT'LL BE PRETTY TOUGH TO BREAK IT TO HIM.
AFTER ALL, THOSE GLORIOUS SPIKES OF HIS ARE THANKS TO YOUR SETTING, SHIGERU-TAN.
SENGOKU-SEMPAI IS A GOOD ENOUGH LEFT-SIDE HITTER TO PLAY ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL.
ALSO, WOULD YOU COOL IT WITH THAT STRANGE AFFECTION YOU HAVE FOR ME?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO SETS FOR HIM.
シゲル
OH YEAH?
I'M WORKING ON TRAINING THIS GUY TO BE YOUR REPLACEMENT, SHIGERU-TAN.
COME ON. ISN'T IT NICE TO HAVE A HOMEMADE LUNCH WHILE YOU WATCH THE FLOWERS BLOOM?
OF COURSE, YOU'RE THE FLOWER FOR ME, SHIGERU-TAN ♥
WELL, WHY DON'T I JUST BURY YOU UNDER THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS THEN?
IT SURE AIN'T EASY, Y'KNOW.
IS THAT WHY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SHOWING UP TO PRACTICE?

Bento: Shigeru

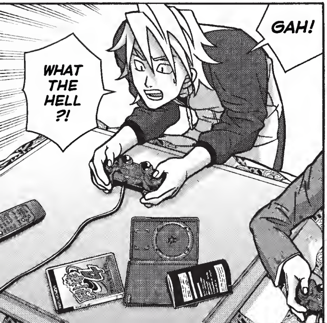

ANYWAY, I'LL TELL HIM WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT...
...THAT I'M GOING TO DEVOTE MYSELF EXCLUSIVELY TO BEING THE GIRLS' TRAINER NEXT YEAR.


...I BET HE'S GONNA *FLIP.*

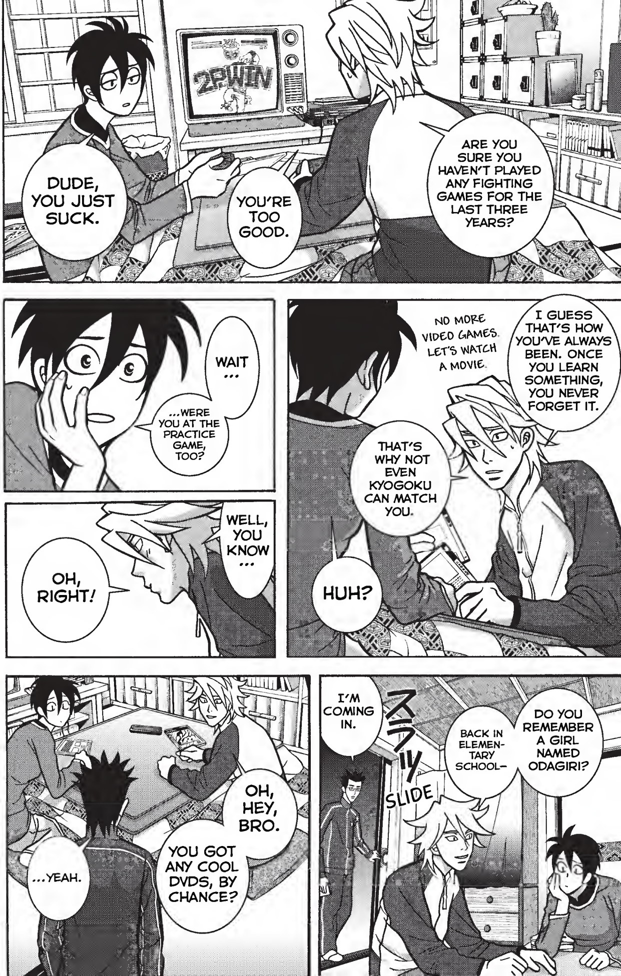

I MEAN, COME ON.
THAT'S GONNA MAKE YOU SEEM LIKE SUCH A PERV, Y'KNOW?
...

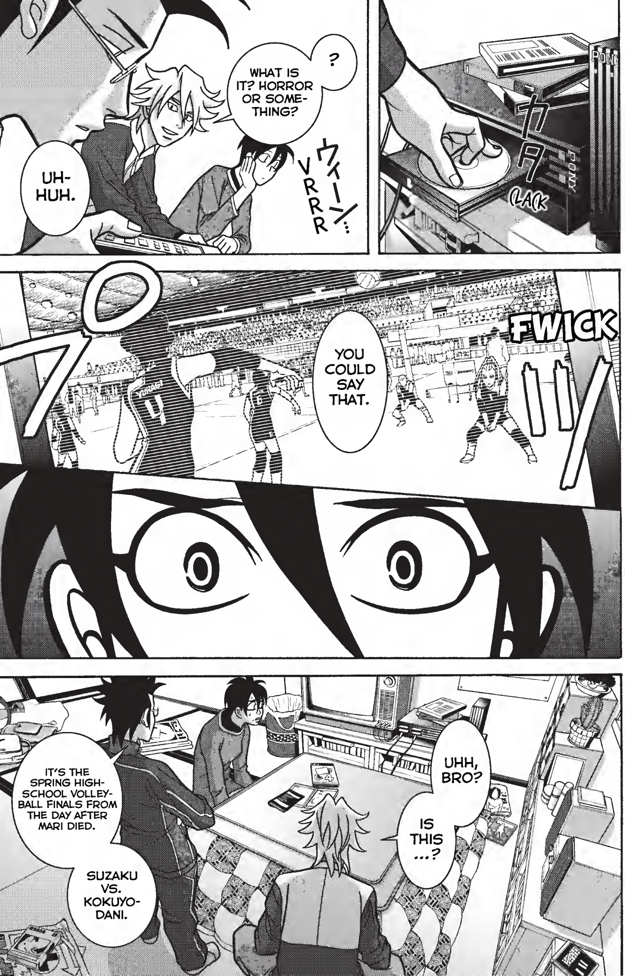

式島整骨院
診療内容
整体治療
式島整骨院

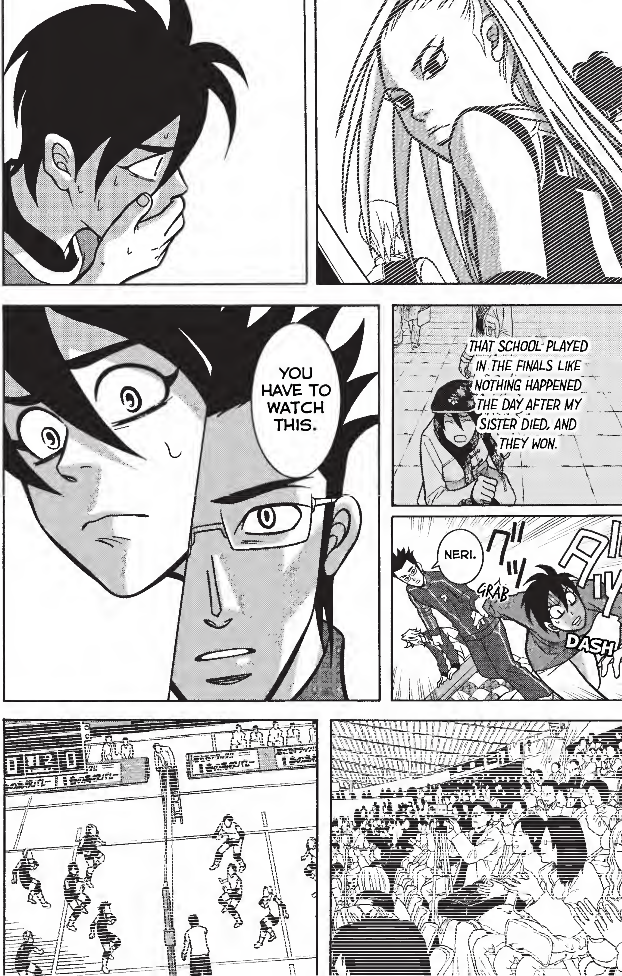
Sign: Shikishima Osteopathy (Right)
We offer: Osteopathic Health Care (Left)

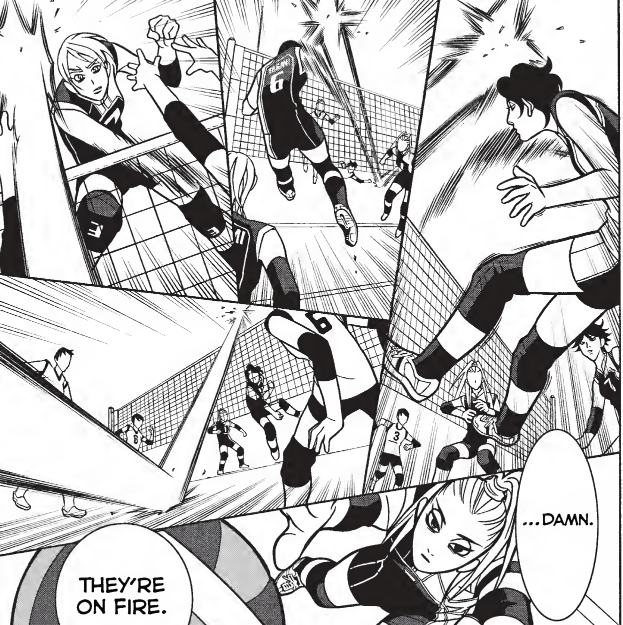

*GAH!*
*WHAT THE HELL ?!*

Game: Gokken 4

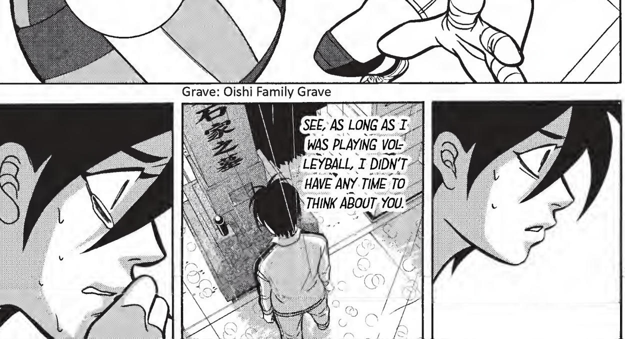

2P WIN
ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVEN'T PLAYED ANY FIGHTING GAMES FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS?
YOU'RE TOO GOOD.
DUDE, YOU JUST SUCK.
I GUESS THAT'S HOW YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN. ONCE YOU LEARN SOMETHING, YOU NEVER FORGET IT.
NO MORE VIDEO GAMES. LET'S WATCH A MOVIE.
THAT'S WHY NOT EVEN KYOGOKU CAN MATCH YOU.
HUH?
WAIT...
...WERE YOU AT THE PRACTICE GAME, TOO?
WELL, YOU KNOW...
OH, RIGHT!
DO YOU REMEMBER A GIRL NAMED ODAGIRI?
BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—
スラッ
SLIDE
I'M COMING IN.
OH, HEY, BRO.
YOU GOT ANY COOL DVDS, BY CHANCE?
...YEAH.

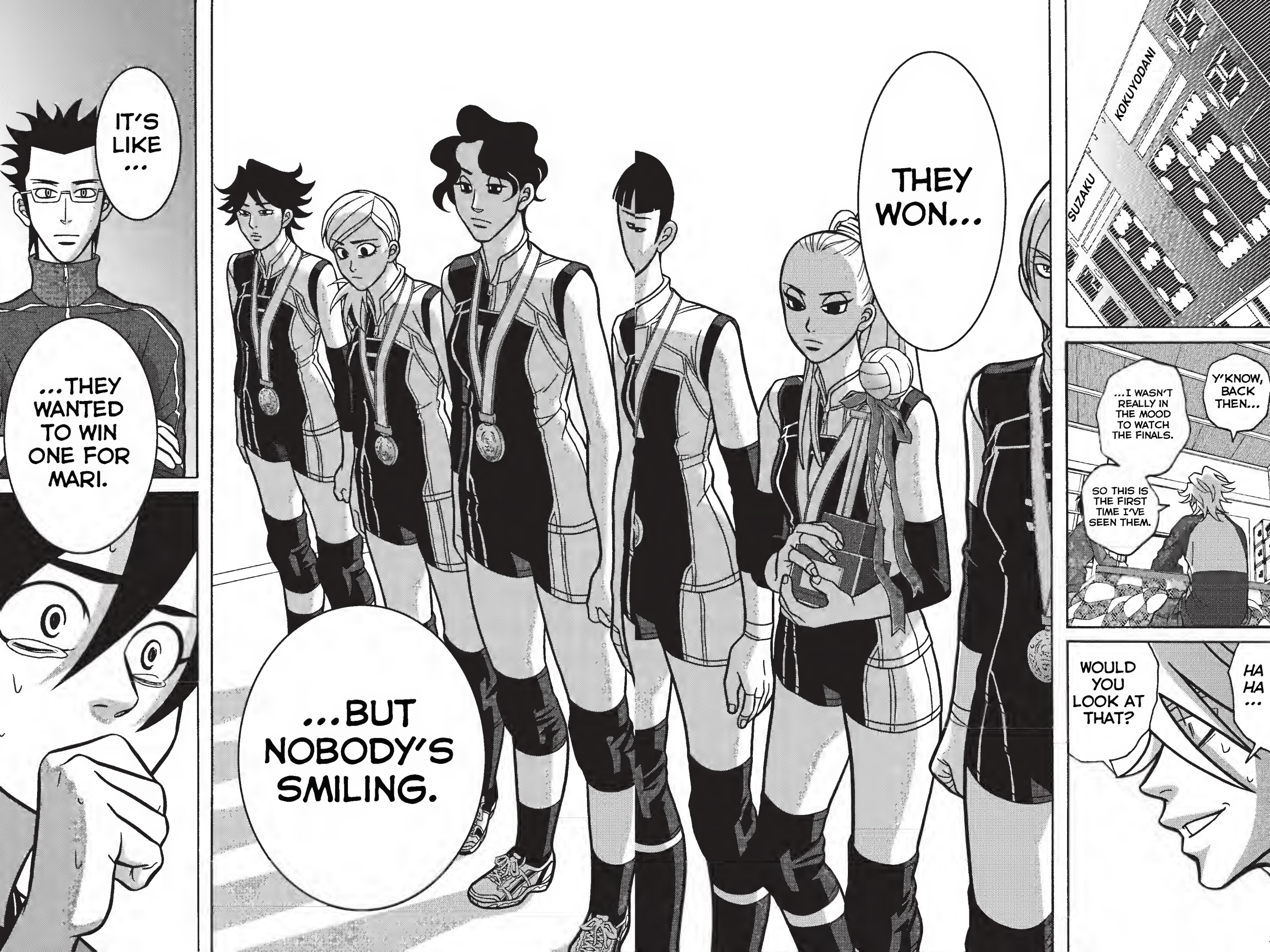

PONY
カタ
CLACK
?
WHAT IS IT? HORROR OR SOMETHING?
ウィーン…
VRRR
UH-HUH.
FWICK
YURAGI 4
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
UHH, BRO?
IS THIS …?
IT'S THE SPRING HIGH-SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL FINALS FROM THE DAY AFTER MARI DIED.
SUZAKU VS. KOKUYODANI.

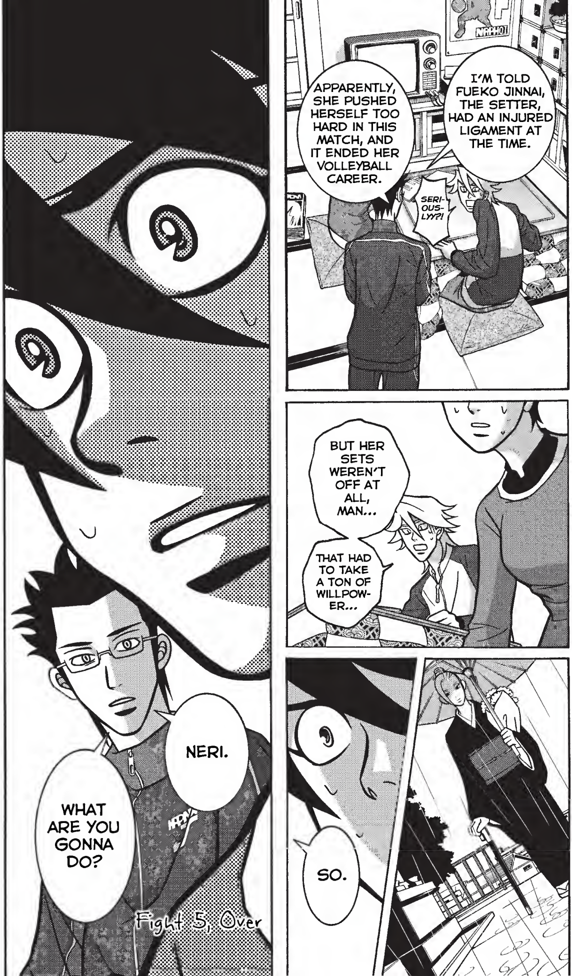

THAT SCHOOL PLAYED IN THE FINALS LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED THE DAY AFTER MY SISTER DIED, AND THEY WON.
NERI.
グッ
GRAB
ダッ
DASH
YOU HAVE TO WATCH THIS.

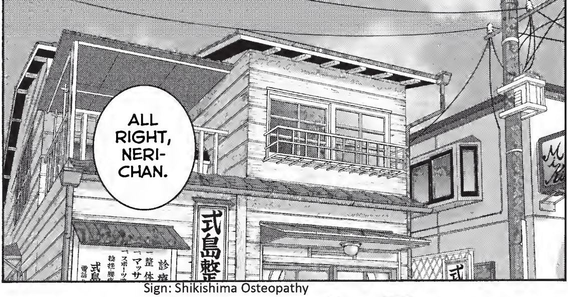

...DAMN.
THEY'RE ON FIRE.

Grave: Oishi Family Grave

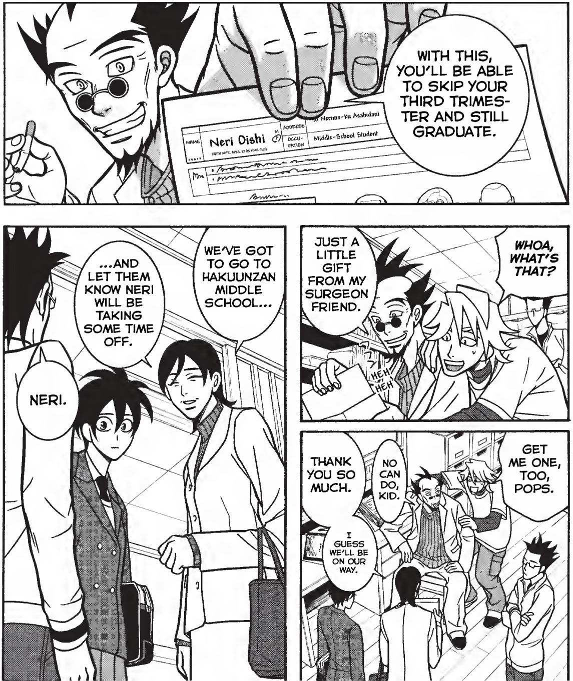

石家之墓
SEE, AS LONG AS I WAS PLAYING VOLLEYBALL, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY TIME TO THINK ABOUT YOU.

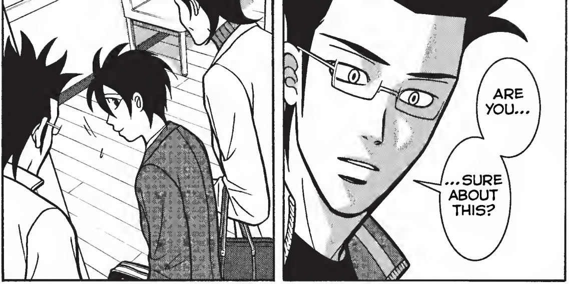

KOKUYODANI
SUZAKU
Y'KNOW, BACK THEN...
...I WASN'T REALLY IN THE MOOD TO WATCH THE FINALS.
SO THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THEM.
HA HA...
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT?
THEY WON...
...BUT NOBODY'S SMILING.
IT'S LIKE...
...THEY WANTED TO WIN ONE FOR MARI.


I'M TOLD FUEKO JINNAI, THE SETTER, HAD AN INJURED LIGAMENT AT THE TIME.
APPARENTLY, SHE PUSHED HERSELF TOO HARD IN THIS MATCH, AND IT ENDED HER VOLLEYBALL CAREER.
SERIOUSLYY?!
BUT HER SETS WEREN'T OFF AT ALL, MAN...
THAT HAD TO TAKE A TON OF WILLPOWER...
SO.
NERI.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
Fight 5, Over

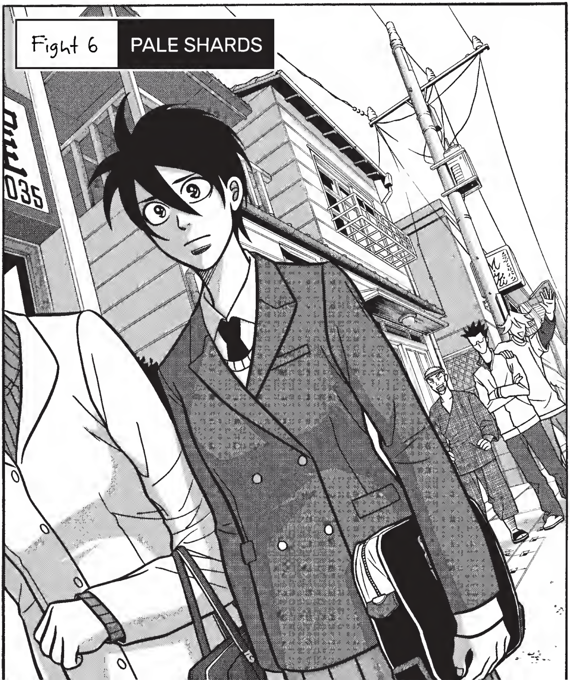

ALL RIGHT, NERI-CHAN.

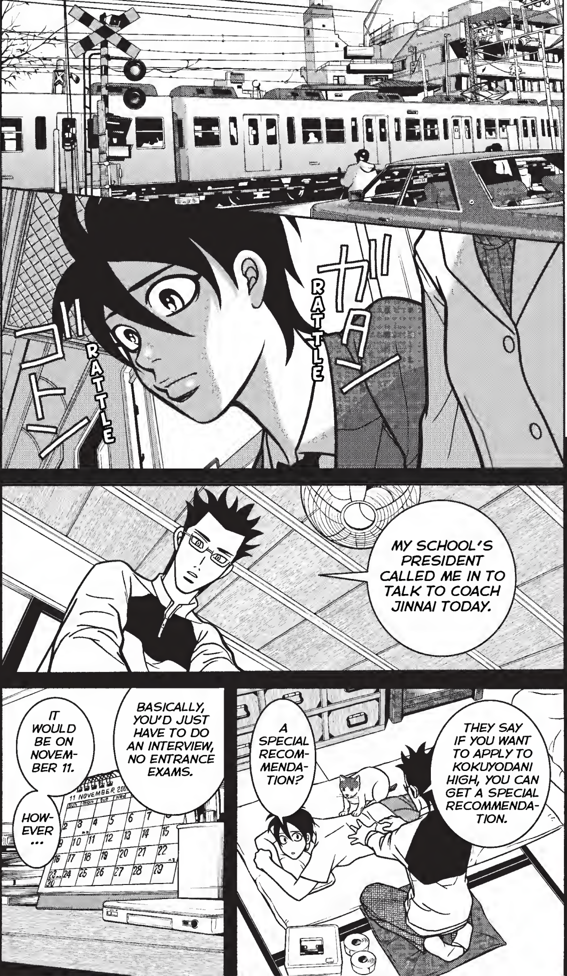
Sign: Shikishima Osteopathy

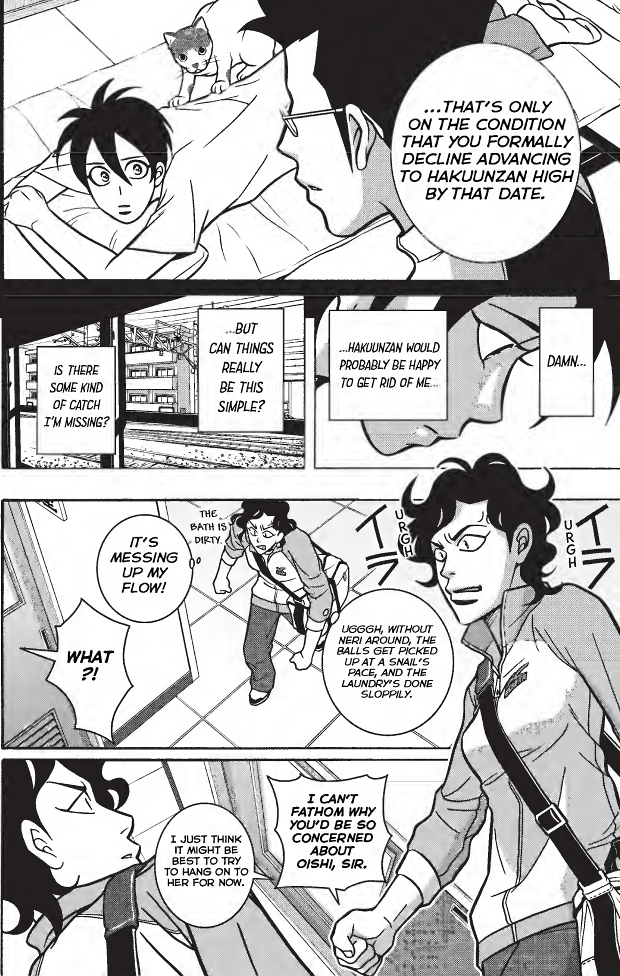

WITH THIS, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SKIP YOUR THIRD TRIMESTER AND STILL GRADUATE.
NAME
Neri Oishi
ADDRESS
to Nerima-ku Asahidani
OCCUPATION
Middle-School Student
WHOA, WHAT'S THAT?
JUST A LITTLE GIFT FROM MY SURGEON FRIEND.
HEH HEH
GET ME ONE, TOO, POPS.
NO CAN DO, KID.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
I GUESS WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY.
WE'VE GOT TO GO TO HAKUUNZAN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
...AND LET THEM KNOW NERI WILL BE TAKING SOME TIME OFF.
NERI.

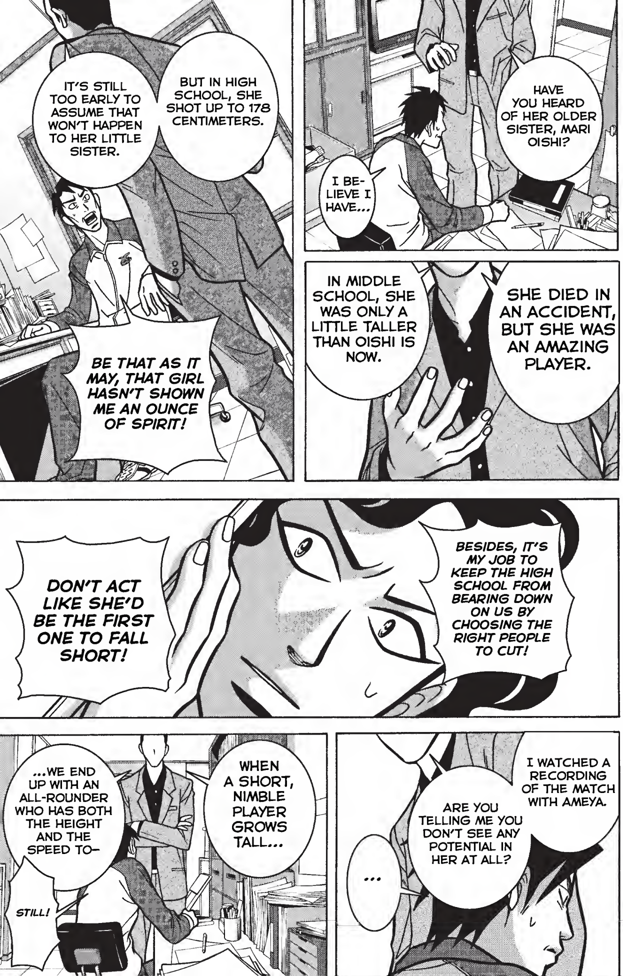

ARE YOU...
...SURE ABOUT THIS?

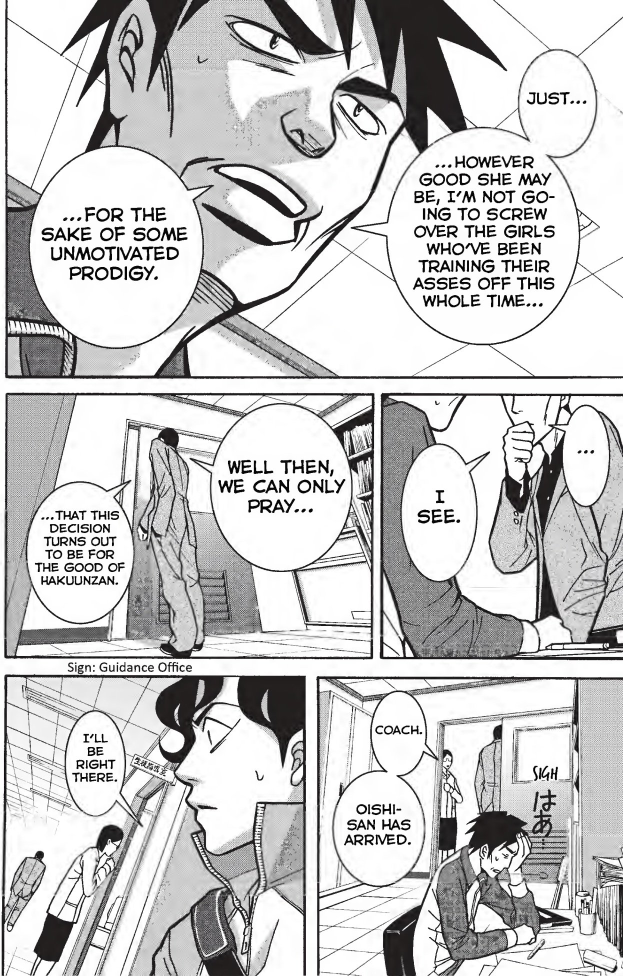
## Fight 6 PALE SHARDS



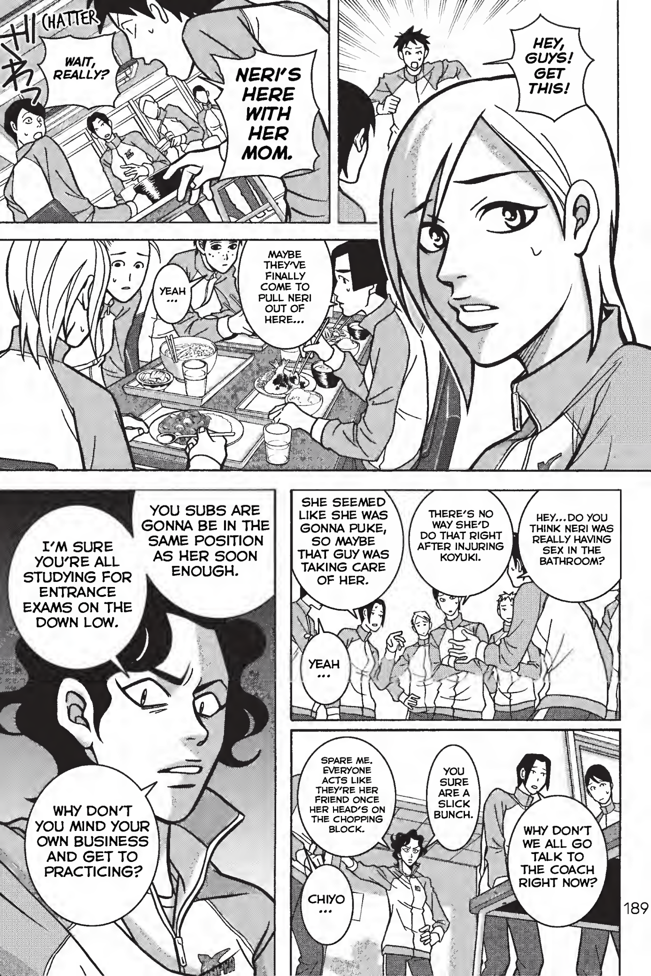

ガタン
RATTLE
コトン
RATTLE
MY SCHOOL'S PRESIDENT CALLED ME IN TO TALK TO COACH JINNAI TODAY.
THEY SAY IF YOU WANT TO APPLY TO KOKUYODANI HIGH, YOU CAN GET A SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION.
A SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION?
BASICALLY, YOU'D JUST HAVE TO DO AN INTERVIEW, NO ENTRANCE EXAMS.
IT WOULD BE ON NOVEMBER 11.
11 NOVEMBER
HOWEVER...

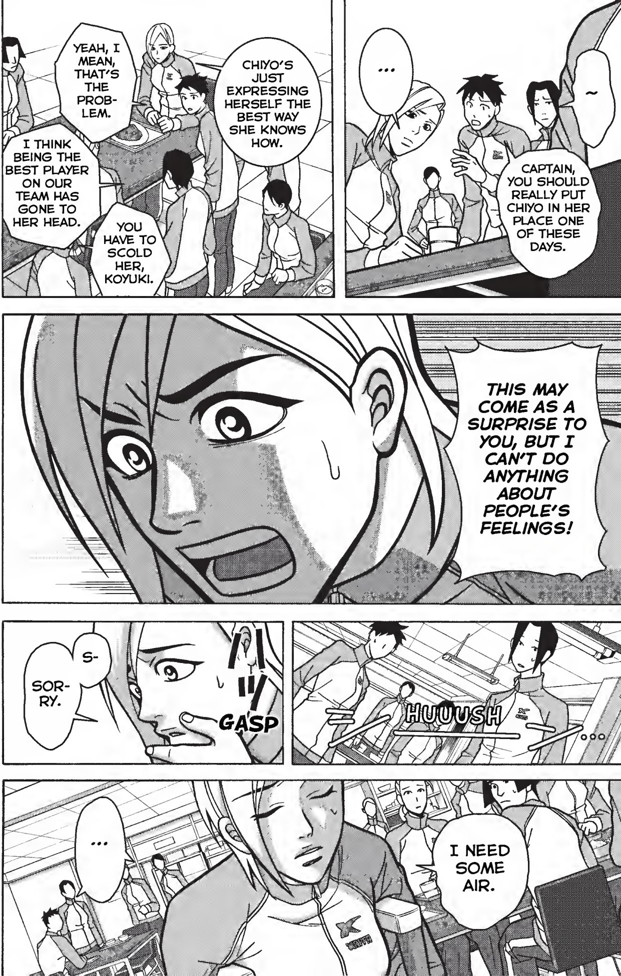

...THAT'S ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT YOU FORMALLY DECLINE ADVANCING TO HAKUUNZAN HIGH BY THAT DATE.
DAMN...
...HAKUUNZAN WOULD PROBABLY BE HAPPY TO GET RID OF ME...
...BUT CAN THINGS REALLY BE THIS SIMPLE?
IS THERE SOME KIND OF CATCH I'M MISSING?
イラ URGH
イラ URGH
UGGGH, WITHOUT NERI AROUND, THE BALLS GET PICKED UP AT A SNAIL'S PACE, AND THE LAUNDRY'S DONE SLOPPILY.
THE BATH IS DIRTY.
IT'S MESSING UP MY FLOW!
WHAT?!
I CAN'T FATHOM WHY YOU'D BE SO CONCERNED ABOUT OISHI, SIR.
I JUST THINK IT MIGHT BE BEST TO TRY TO HANG ON TO HER FOR NOW.

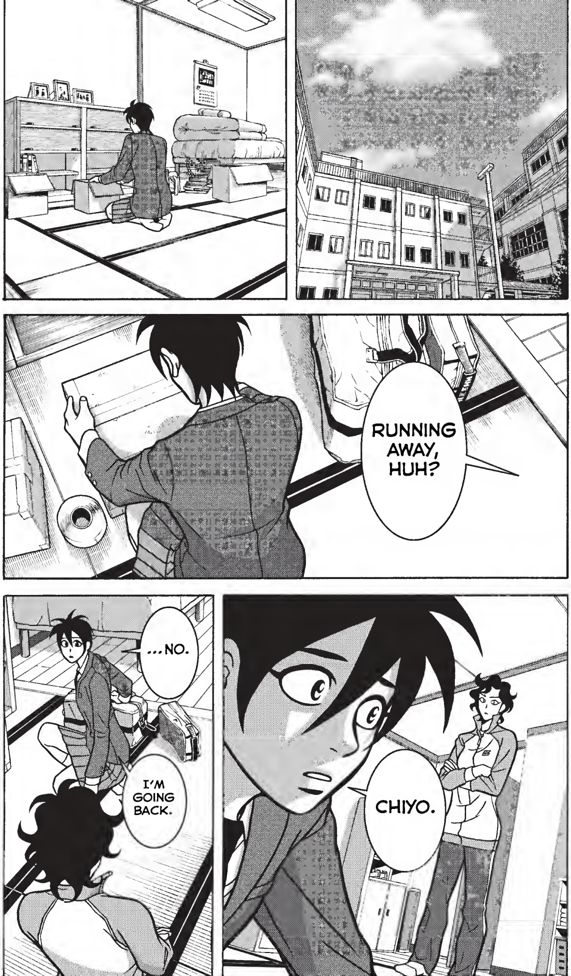

HAVE YOU HEARD OF HER OLDER SISTER, MARI OISHI?
I BE-LIEVE I HAVE...
SHE DIED IN AN ACCIDENT, BUT SHE WAS AN AMAZING PLAYER.
IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, SHE WAS ONLY A LITTLE TALLER THAN OISHI IS NOW.
BUT IN HIGH SCHOOL, SHE SHOT UP TO 178 CENTIMETERS.
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO ASSUME THAT WON'T HAPPEN TO HER LITTLE SISTER.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, THAT GIRL HASN'T SHOWN ME AN OUNCE OF SPIRIT!
BESIDES, IT'S MY JOB TO KEEP THE HIGH SCHOOL FROM BEARING DOWN ON US BY CHOOSING THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO CUT!
DON'T ACT LIKE SHE'D BE THE FIRST ONE TO FALL SHORT!
I WATCHED A RECORDING OF THE MATCH WITH AMEYA.
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU DON'T SEE ANY POTENTIAL IN HER AT ALL?
...
WHEN A SHORT, NIMBLE PLAYER GROWS TALL...
...WE END UP WITH AN ALL-ROUNDER WHO HAS BOTH THE HEIGHT AND THE SPEED TO–
STILL!

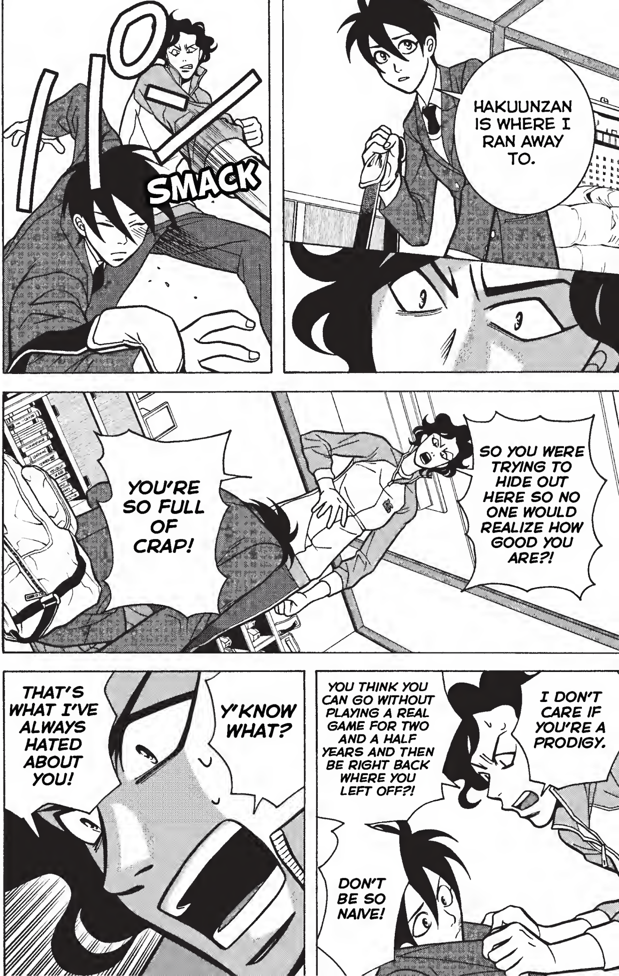

JUST...
...HOWEVER GOOD SHE MAY BE, I'M NOT GOING TO SCREW OVER THE GIRLS WHO'VE BEEN TRAINING THEIR ASSES OFF THIS WHOLE TIME...
...FOR THE SAKE OF SOME UNMOTIVATED PRODIGY.
...
I SEE.
WELL THEN, WE CAN ONLY PRAY...
...THAT THIS DECISION TURNS OUT TO BE FOR THE GOOD OF HAKUUNZAN.
COACH.
OISHI-SAN HAS ARRIVED.
SIGH
はあ
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
生徒指導室

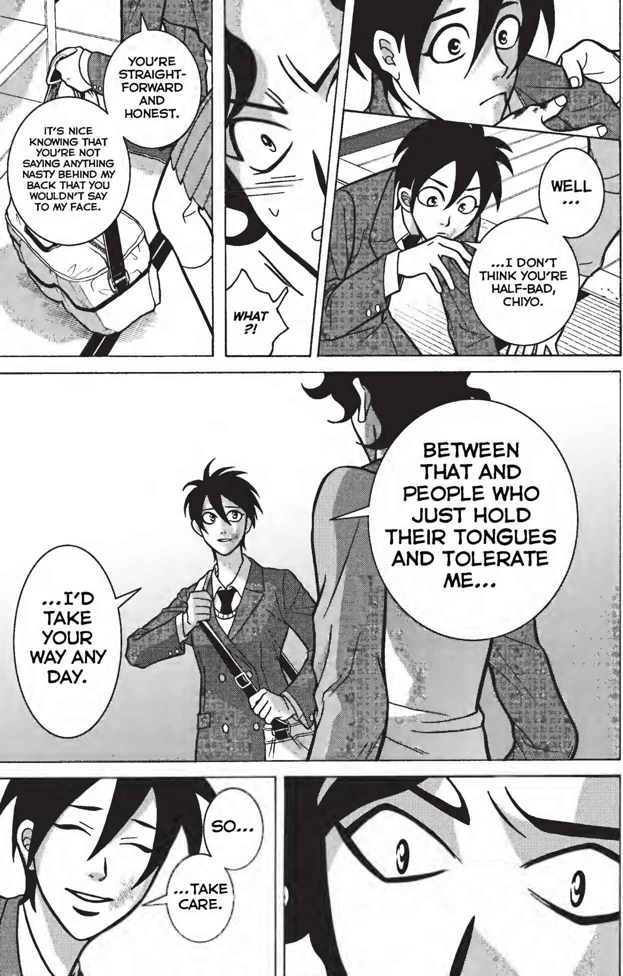
Sign: Guidance Office

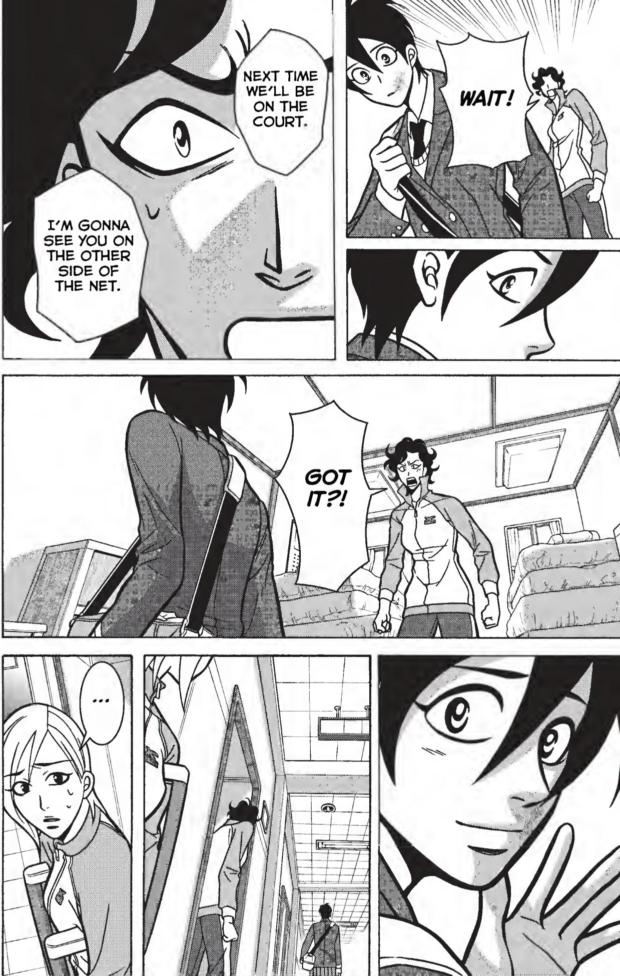

HEY, GUYS! GET THIS!
NERI'S HERE WITH HER MOM.
WAIT, REALLY?
CHATTER
MAYBE THEY'VE FINALLY COME TO PULL NERI OUT OF HERE...
YEAH...
HEY...DO YOU THINK NERI WAS REALLY HAVING SEX IN THE BATHROOM?
THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D DO THAT RIGHT AFTER INJURING KOYUKI.
SHE SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS GONNA PUKE, SO MAYBE THAT GUY WAS TAKING CARE OF HER.
YEAH...
YOU SURE ARE A SLICK BUNCH.
SPARE ME. EVERYONE ACTS LIKE THEY'RE HER FRIEND ONCE HER HEAD'S ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK.
WHY DON'T WE ALL GO TALK TO THE COACH RIGHT NOW?
CHIYO...
YOU SUBS ARE GONNA BE IN THE SAME POSITION AS HER SOON ENOUGH.
I'M SURE YOU'RE ALL STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS ON THE DOWN LOW.
WHY DON'T YOU MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS AND GET TO PRACTICING?

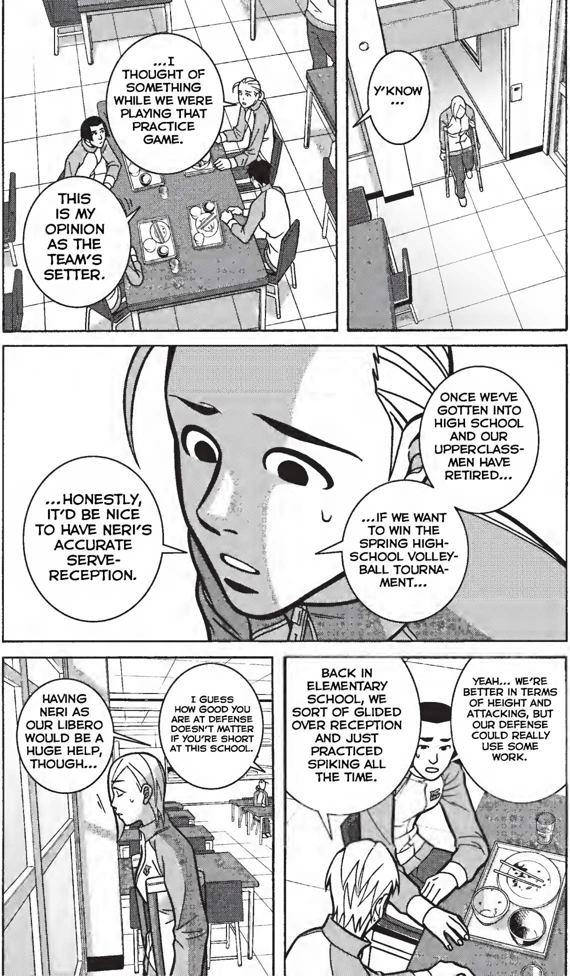

~
CAPTAIN, YOU SHOULD REALLY PUT CHIYO IN HER PLACE ONE OF THESE DAYS.
...
CHIYO'S JUST EXPRESSING HERSELF THE BEST WAY SHE KNOWS HOW.
YEAH, I MEAN, THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
I THINK BEING THE BEST PLAYER ON OUR TEAM HAS GONE TO HER HEAD.
YOU HAVE TO SCOLD HER, KOYUKI.
THIS MAY COME AS A SURPRISE TO YOU, BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT PEOPLE'S FEELINGS!
HUUUSH
...
GASP
S- SORRY.
I NEED SOME AIR.
...

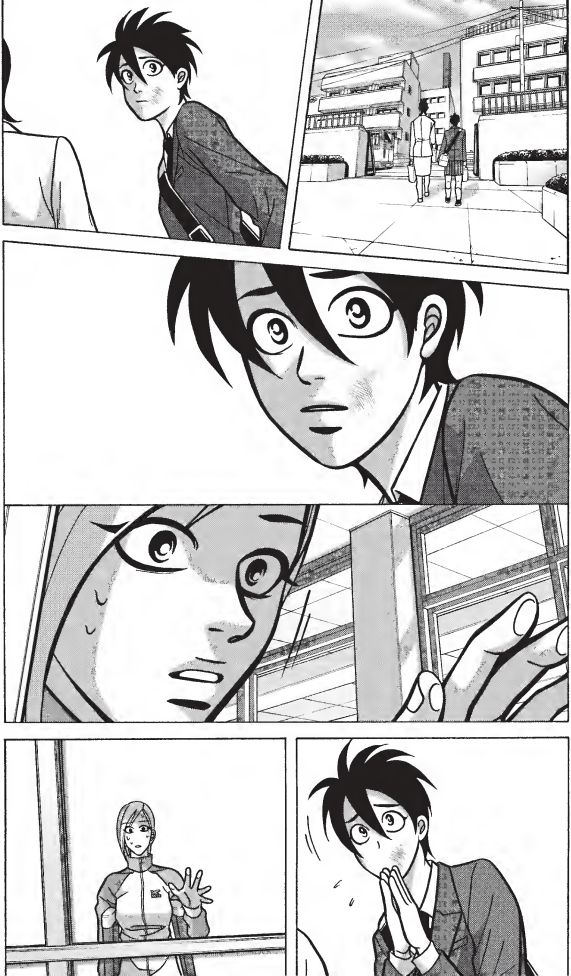

RUNNING AWAY, HUH?
CHIYO.
...NO.
I'M GOING BACK.

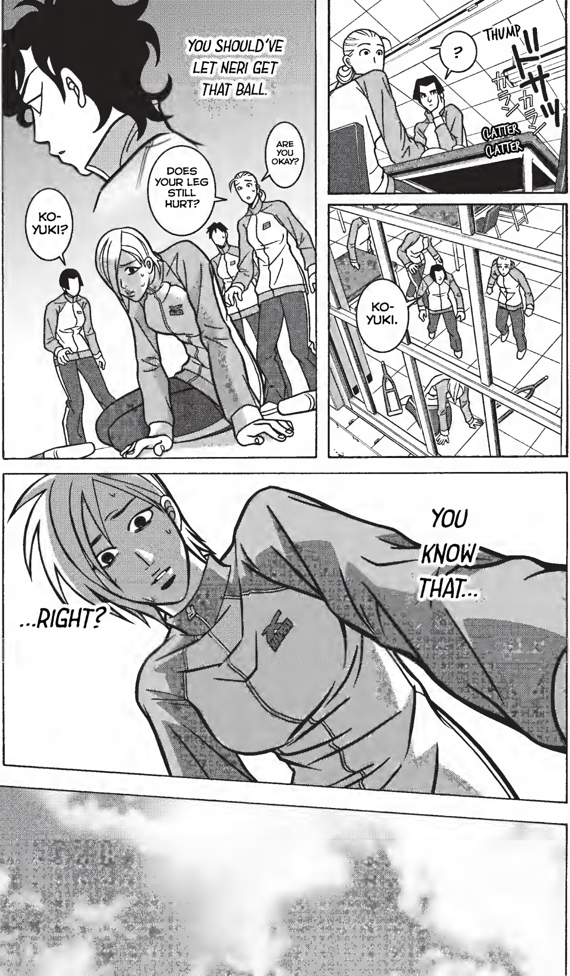

HAKUUNZAN IS WHERE I RAN AWAY TO.
SMACK
SO YOU WERE TRYING TO HIDE OUT HERE SO NO ONE WOULD REALIZE HOW GOOD YOU ARE?!
YOU'RE SO FULL OF CRAP!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE A PRODIGY.
YOU THINK YOU CAN GO WITHOUT PLAYING A REAL GAME FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS AND THEN BE RIGHT BACK WHERE YOU LEFT OFF?!
DON'T BE SO NAIVE!
Y'KNOW WHAT?
THAT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS HATED ABOUT YOU!

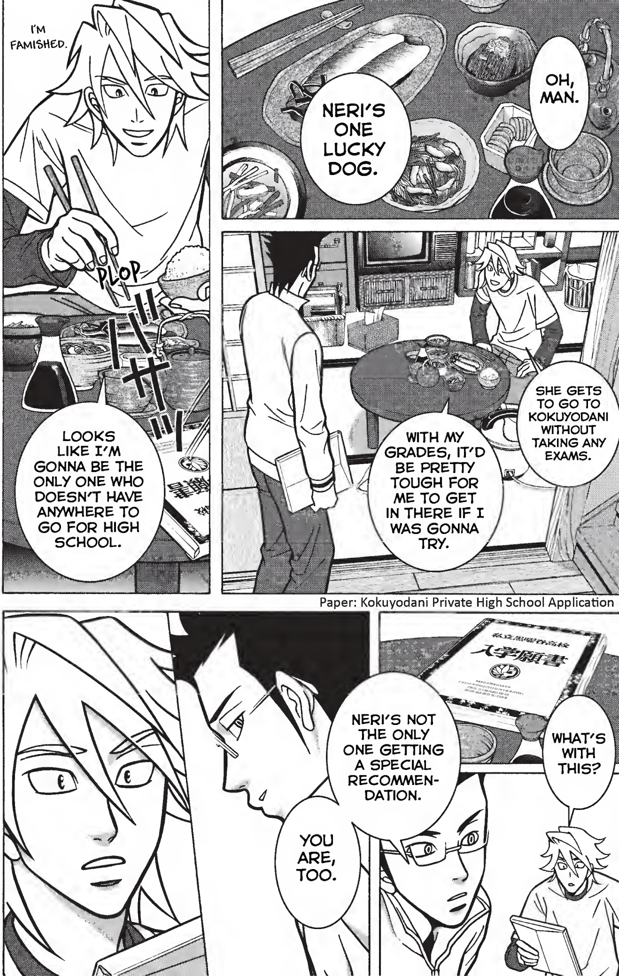

YOU'RE STRAIGHTFORWARD AND HONEST.
IT'S NICE KNOWING THAT YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING NASTY BEHIND MY BACK THAT YOU WOULDN'T SAY TO MY FACE.
WHAT?!
WELL...
...I DON'T THINK YOU'RE HALF-BAD, CHIYO.
BETWEEN THAT AND PEOPLE WHO JUST HOLD THEIR TONGUES AND TOLERATE ME...
...I'D TAKE YOUR WAY ANY DAY.
SO...
...TAKE CARE.


WAIT!
NEXT TIME WE'LL BE ON THE COURT.
I'M GONNA SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE NET.
GOT IT?!
...

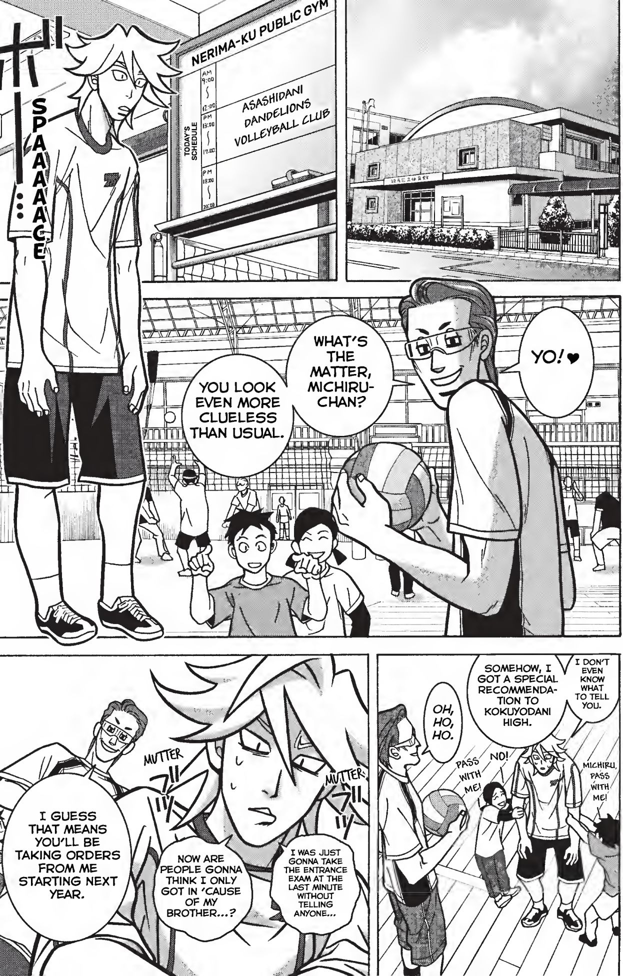

Y'KNOW...
...I THOUGHT OF SOMETHING WHILE WE WERE PLAYING THAT PRACTICE GAME.
THIS IS MY OPINION AS THE TEAM'S SETTER.
ONCE WE'VE GOTTEN INTO HIGH SCHOOL AND OUR UPPERCLASSMEN HAVE RETIRED...
...IF WE WANT TO WIN THE SPRING HIGH-SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT...
...HONESTLY, IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE NERI'S ACCURATE SERVE-RECEPTION.
YEAH... WE'RE BETTER IN TERMS OF HEIGHT AND ATTACKING, BUT OUR DEFENSE COULD REALLY USE SOME WORK.
BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WE SORT OF GLIDED OVER RECEPTION AND JUST PRACTICED SPIKING ALL THE TIME.
I GUESS HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT DEFENSE DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE SHORT AT THIS SCHOOL.
HAVING NERI AS OUR LIBERO WOULD BE A HUGE HELP, THOUGH...

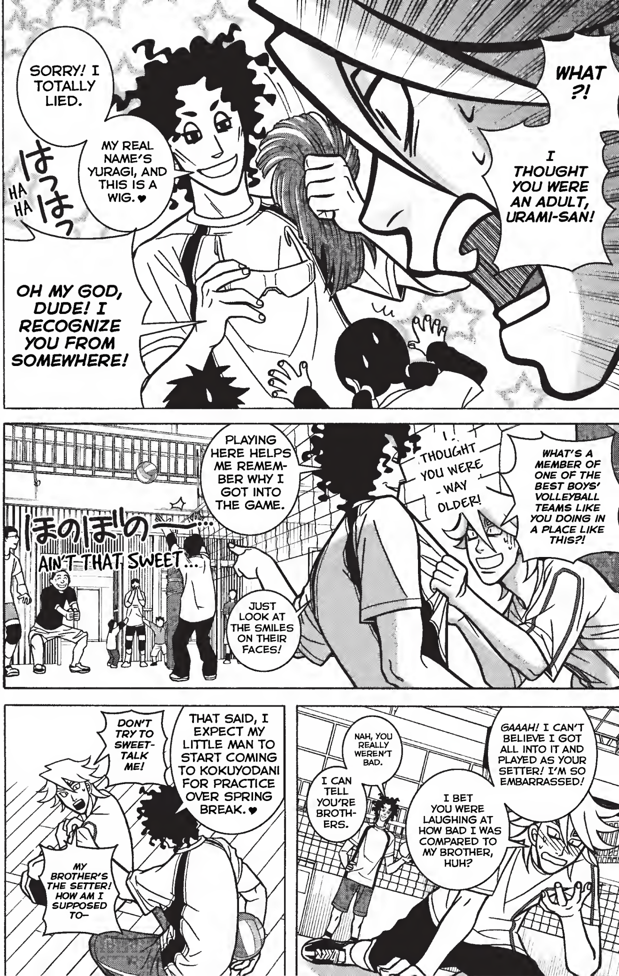


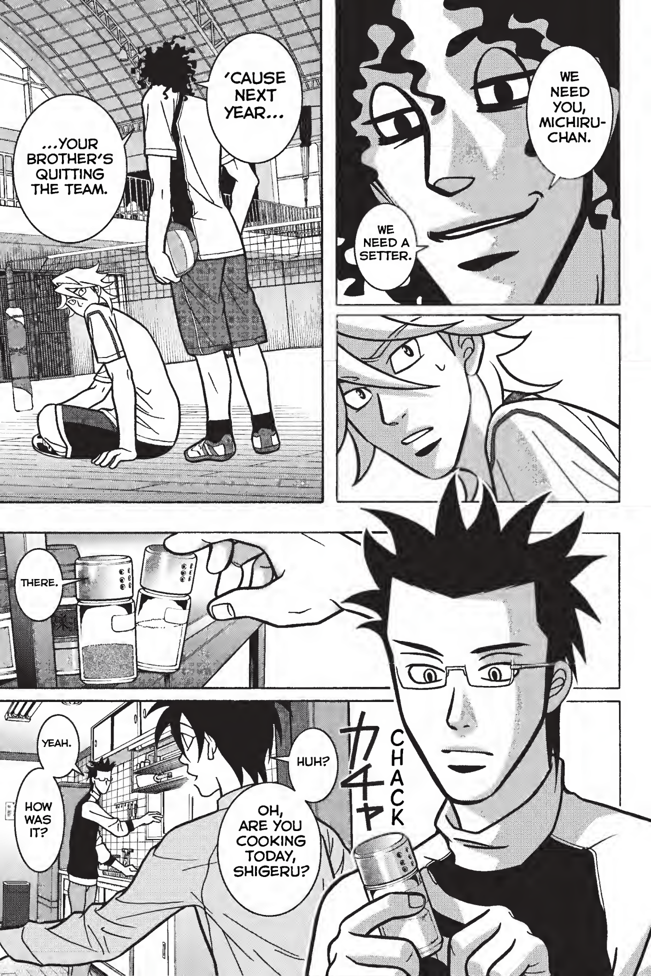

?
THUMP
ドサッ
カランカラン
CLATTER CLATTER
KO-YUKI.
YOU SHOULD'VE LET NERI GET THAT BALL.
ARE YOU OKAY?
DOES YOUR LEG STILL HURT?
KO-YUKI?
YOU KNOW THAT...
...RIGHT?

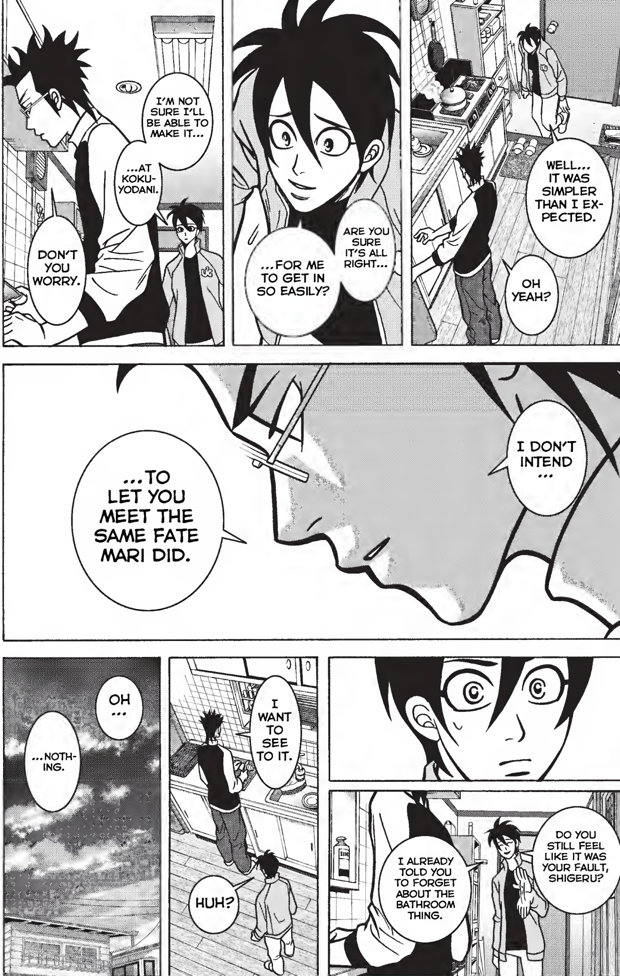

OH, MAN.
NERI'S ONE LUCKY DOG.
SHE GETS TO GO TO KOKUYODANI WITHOUT TAKING ANY EXAMS.
WITH MY GRADES, IT'D BE PRETTY TOUGH FOR ME TO GET IN THERE IF I WAS GONNA TRY.
I'M FAMISHED.
PLOP
LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA BE THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO FOR HIGH SCHOOL.
私立黒曜谷高校
入学願書
WHAT'S WITH THIS?
NERI'S NOT THE ONLY ONE GETTING A SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION.
YOU ARE, TOO.

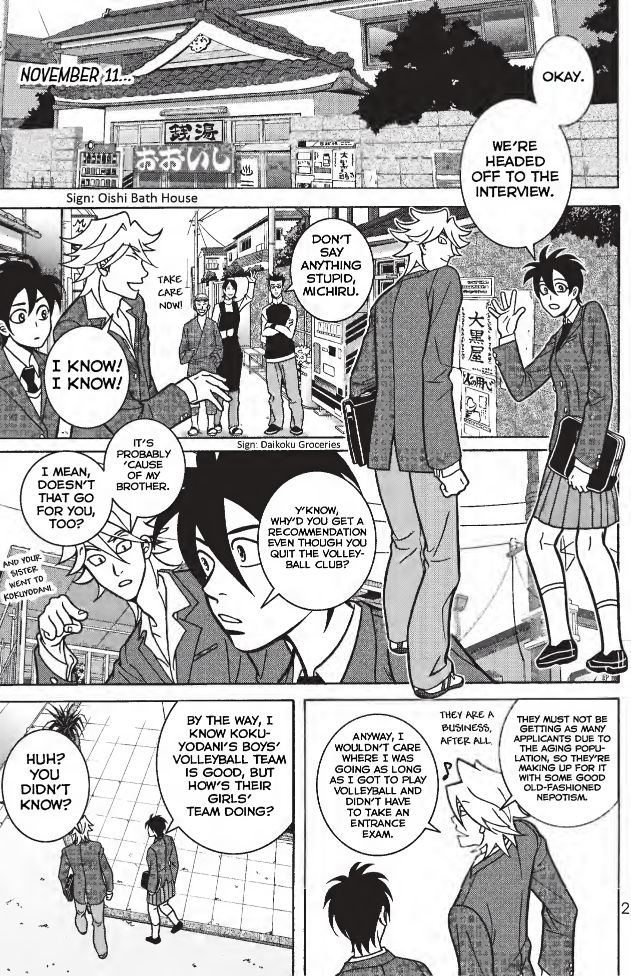
Paper: Kokuyodani Private High School Application


NERIMA-KU PUBLIC GYM
TODAY'S SCHEDULE
AM 9:00 ~ 12:00
PM 13:00 ~ 17:00
ASASHIDANI DANDELIONS VOLLEYBALL CLUB
PM 18:00 ~ 20:00
SPAAAAAAGE
…
YO! ♥
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MICHIRU-CHAN?
YOU LOOK EVEN MORE CLUELESS THAN USUAL.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU.
SOMEHOW, I GOT A SPECIAL RECOMMENDATION TO KOKUYODANI HIGH.
OH, HO, HO.
MICHIRU, PASS WITH ME!
NO!
PASS WITH ME!
MUTTER
I WAS JUST GONNA TAKE THE ENTRANCE EXAM AT THE LAST MINUTE WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE...
NOW ARE PEOPLE GONNA THINK I ONLY GOT IN 'CAUSE OF MY BROTHER...?
MUTTER
I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU'LL BE TAKING ORDERS FROM ME STARTING NEXT YEAR.


WHAT?!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN ADULT, URAMI-SAN!
SORRY! I TOTALLY LIED.
MY REAL NAME'S YURAGI, AND THIS IS A WIG. ♥
はっはっ HA HA
OH MY GOD, DUDE! I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM SOMEWHERE!
WHAT'S A MEMBER OF ONE OF THE BEST BOYS' VOLLEYBALL TEAMS LIKE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE WAY OLDER!
PLAYING HERE HELPS ME REMEMBER WHY I GOT INTO THE GAME.
JUST LOOK AT THE SMILES ON THEIR FACES!
ほのぼのー AIN'T THAT SWEET...
GAAAH! I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT ALL INTO IT AND PLAYED AS YOUR SETTER! I'M SO EMBARRASSED!
I BET YOU WERE LAUGHING AT HOW BAD I WAS COMPARED TO MY BROTHER, HUH?
NAH, YOU REALLY WEREN'T BAD.
I CAN TELL YOU'RE BROTHERS.
THAT SAID, I EXPECT MY LITTLE MAN TO START COMING TO KOKUYODANI FOR PRACTICE OVER SPRING BREAK. ♥
DON'T TRY TO SWEET-TALK ME!
MY BROTHER'S THE SETTER! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO–

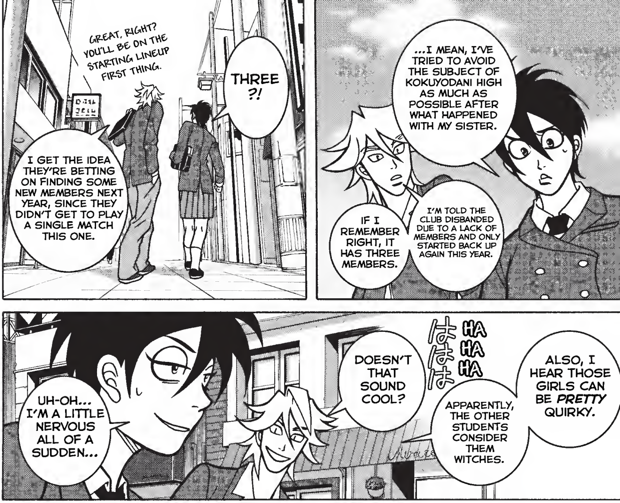

WE NEED YOU, MICHIRU-CHAN.
WE NEED A SETTER.
'CAUSE NEXT YEAR...
...YOUR BROTHER'S QUITTING THE TEAM.
THERE.
カチャ CHACK
HUH?
OH, ARE YOU COOKING TODAY, SHIGERU?
YEAH.
HOW WAS IT?


WELL... IT WAS SIMPLER THAN I EXPECTED.
OH YEAH?
ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT...
...FOR ME TO GET IN SO EASILY?
I'M NOT SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT...
...AT KOKUYODANI.
DON'T YOU WORRY.
I DON'T INTEND...
...TO LET YOU MEET THE SAME FATE MARI DID.
DO YOU STILL FEEL LIKE IT WAS YOUR FAULT, SHIGERU?
I ALREADY TOLD YOU TO FORGET ABOUT THE BATHROOM THING.
I WANT TO SEE TO IT.
HUH?
OH...
...NOTHING.

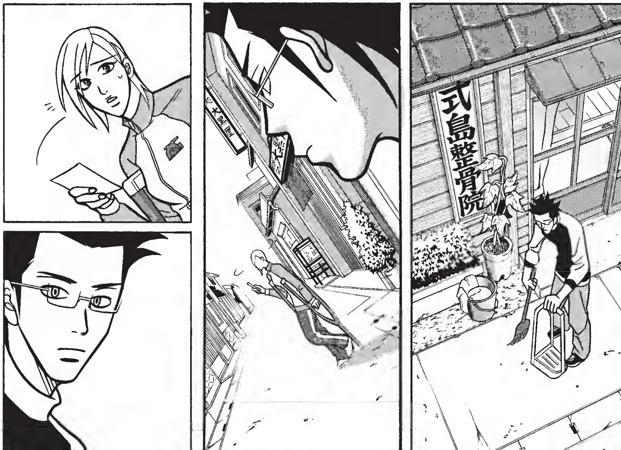

NOVEMBER 11...
OKAY.
WE'RE HEADED OFF TO THE INTERVIEW.
銭湯
おおいし
DON'T SAY ANYTHING STUPID, MICHIRU.
TAKE CARE NOW!
I KNOW! I KNOW!
大黒屋
火の用心
Y'KNOW, WHY'D YOU GET A RECOMMENDATION EVEN THOUGH YOU QUIT THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB?
IT'S PROBABLY 'CAUSE OF MY BROTHER.
I MEAN, DOESN'T THAT GO FOR YOU, TOO?
AND YOUR SISTER WENT TO KOKUYODANI.
THEY MUST NOT BE GETTING AS MANY APPLICANTS DUE TO THE AGING POPULATION, SO THEY'RE MAKING UP FOR IT WITH SOME GOOD OLD-FASHIONED NEPOTISM.
THEY ARE A BUSINESS, AFTER ALL.
ANYWAY, I WOULDN'T CARE WHERE I WAS GOING AS LONG AS I GOT TO PLAY VOLLEYBALL AND DIDN'T HAVE TO TAKE AN ENTRANCE EXAM.
BY THE WAY, I KNOW KOKUYODANI'S BOYS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM IS GOOD, BUT HOW'S THEIR GIRLS' TEAM DOING?
HUH? YOU DIDN'T KNOW?

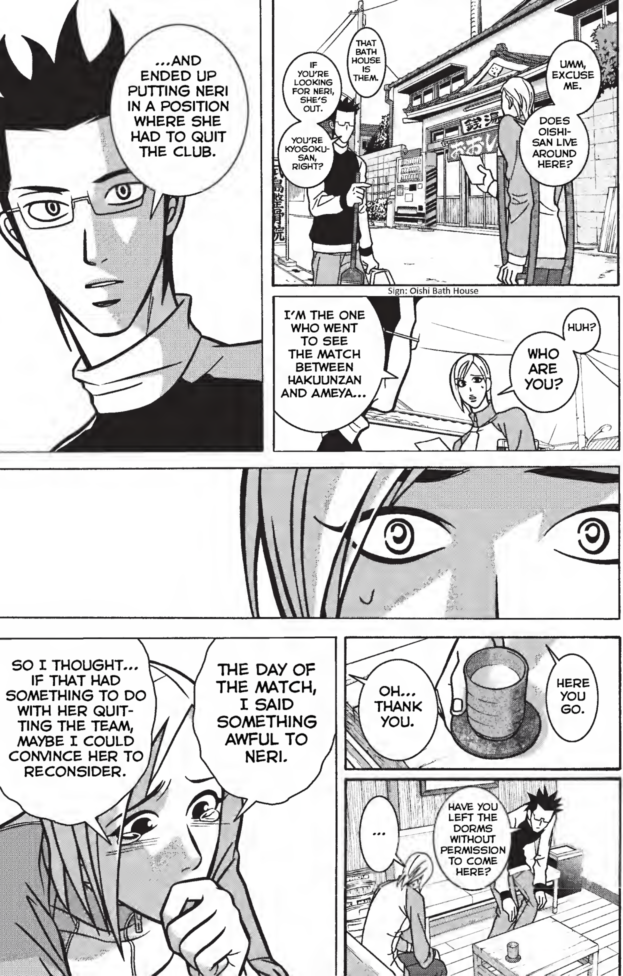
Sign: Oishi Bath House

Sign: Daikoku Groceries

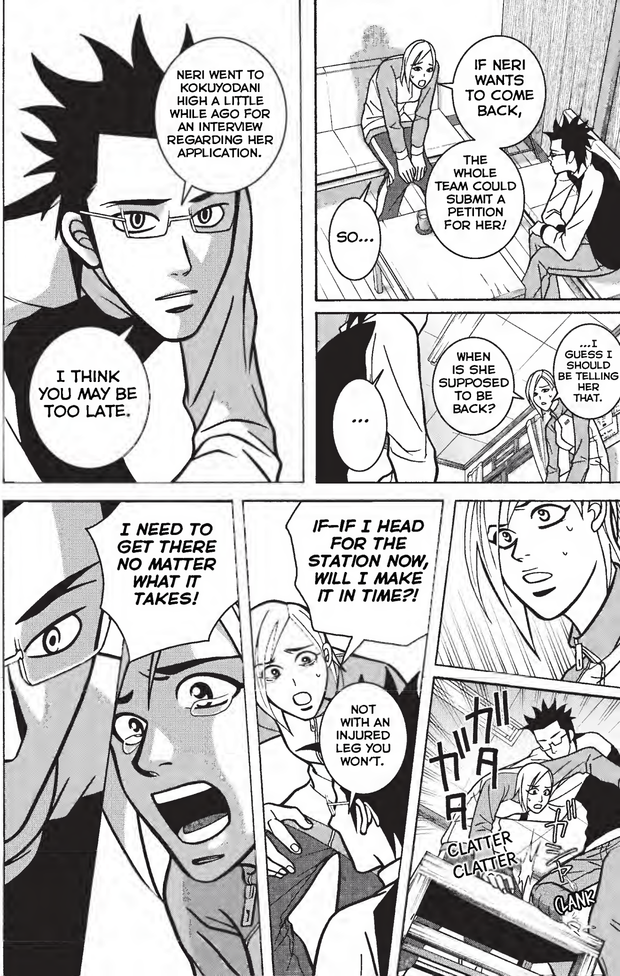

...I MEAN, I'VE TRIED TO AVOID THE SUBJECT OF KOKUYODANI HIGH AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH MY SISTER.
I'M TOLD THE CLUB DISBANDED DUE TO A LACK OF MEMBERS AND ONLY STARTED BACK UP AGAIN THIS YEAR.
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, IT HAS THREE MEMBERS.
THREE ?!
GREAT, RIGHT? YOU'LL BE ON THE STARTING LINEUP FIRST THING.
I GET THE IDEA THEY'RE BETTING ON FINDING SOME NEW MEMBERS NEXT YEAR, SINCE THEY DIDN'T GET TO PLAY A SINGLE MATCH THIS ONE.
ALSO, I HEAR THOSE GIRLS CAN BE *PRETTY* QUIRKY.
APPARENTLY, THE OTHER STUDENTS CONSIDER THEM WITCHES.
ははは
HA HA HA
DOESN'T THAT SOUND COOL?
UH-OH... I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN...

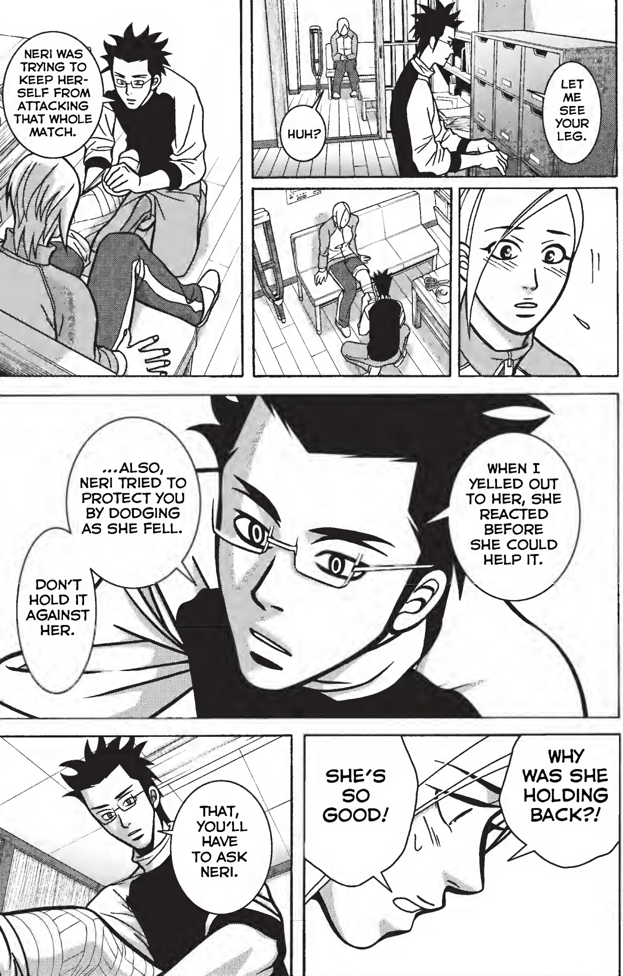
Sign: Shikishima Osteopathy

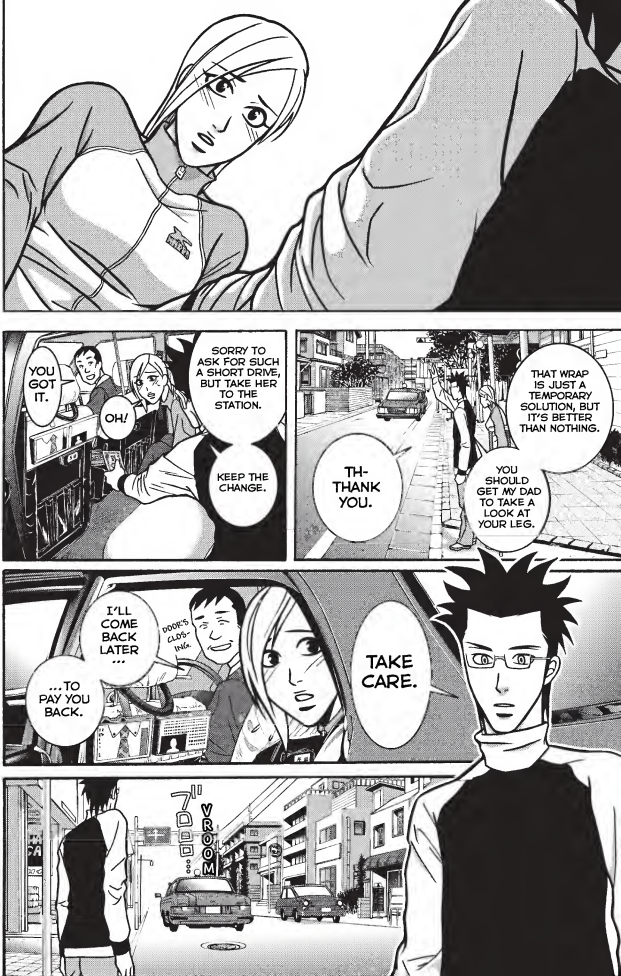


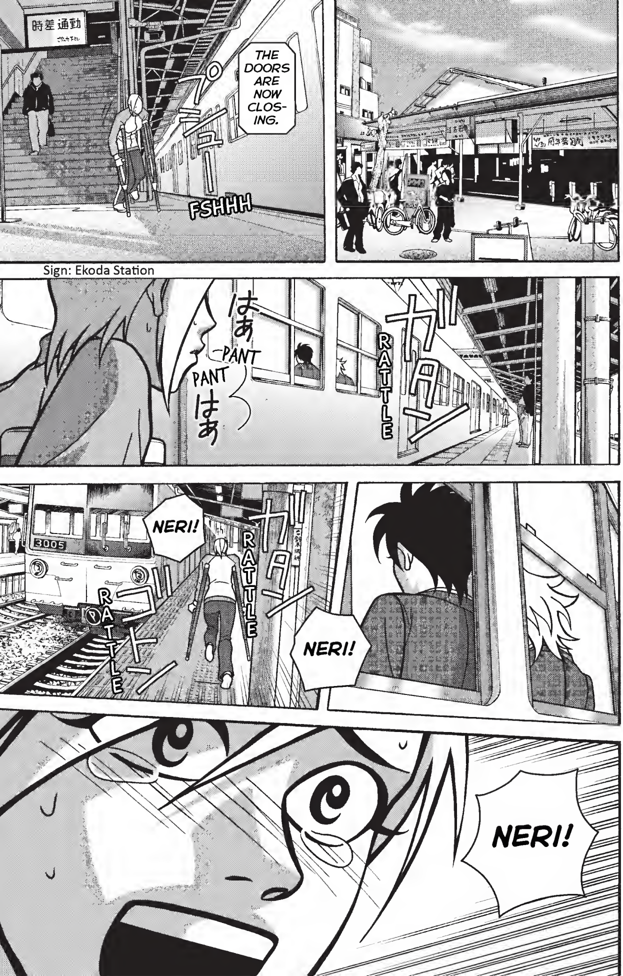

Sign: Oishi Bath House

UMM, EXCUSE ME.
DOES OISHI-SAN LIVE AROUND HERE?
THAT BATH HOUSE IS THEM.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR NERI, SHE'S OUT.
YOU'RE KYOGOKU-SAN, RIGHT?
HUH?
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M THE ONE WHO WENT TO SEE THE MATCH BETWEEN HAKUUNZAN AND AMEYA...
...AND ENDED UP PUTTING NERI IN A POSITION WHERE SHE HAD TO QUIT THE CLUB.
HERE YOU GO.
OH... THANK YOU.
HAVE YOU LEFT THE DORMS WITHOUT PERMISSION TO COME HERE?
...
THE DAY OF THE MATCH, I SAID SOMETHING AWFUL TO NERI.
SO I THOUGHT... IF THAT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER QUITTING THE TEAM, MAYBE I COULD CONVINCE HER TO RECONSIDER.

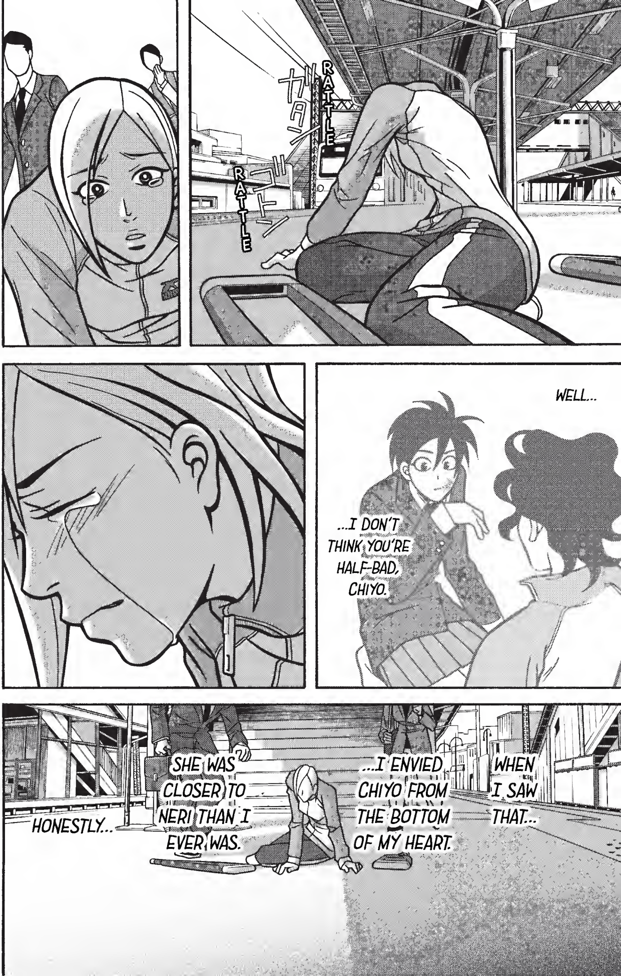

IF NERI WANTS TO COME BACK,
THE WHOLE TEAM COULD SUBMIT A PETITION FOR HER!
SO...
...I GUESS I SHOULD BE TELLING HER THAT.
WHEN IS SHE SUPPOSED TO BE BACK?
...
NERI WENT TO KOKUYODANI HIGH A LITTLE WHILE AGO FOR AN INTERVIEW REGARDING HER APPLICATION.
I THINK YOU MAY BE TOO LATE.
ガタ ガタ
CLATTER CLATTER
ガシャ
CLANK
IF—IF I HEAD FOR THE STATION NOW, WILL I MAKE IT IN TIME?!
NOT WITH AN INJURED LEG YOU WON'T.
I NEED TO GET THERE NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!

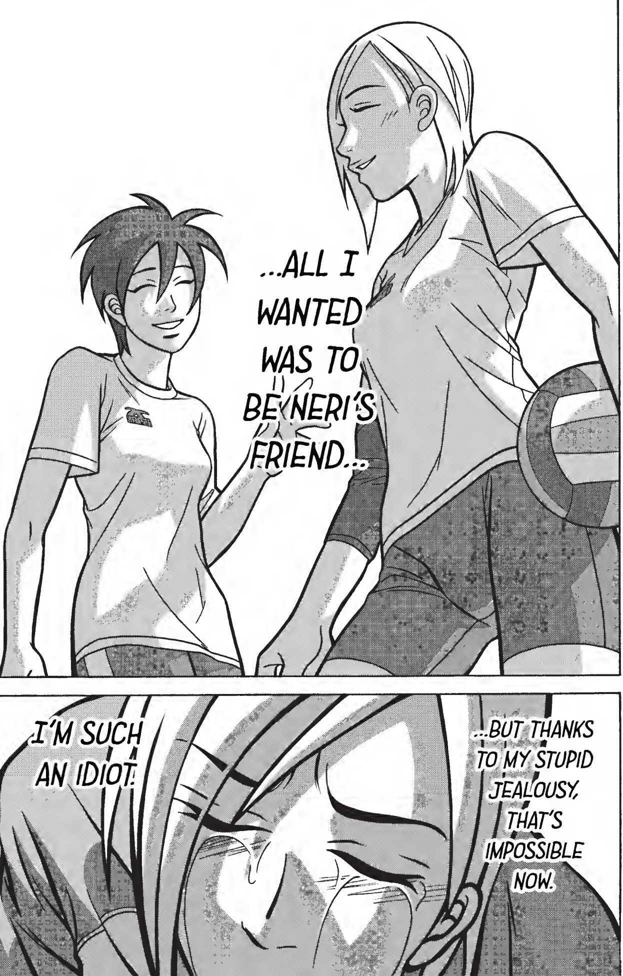

LET ME SEE YOUR LEG.
HUH?
NERI WAS TRYING TO KEEP HERSELF FROM ATTACKING THAT WHOLE MATCH.
WHEN I YELLED OUT TO HER, SHE REACTED BEFORE SHE COULD HELP IT.
...ALSO, NERI TRIED TO PROTECT YOU BY DODGING AS SHE FELL.
DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST HER.
WHY WAS SHE HOLDING BACK?!
SHE'S SO GOOD!
THAT, YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK NERI.

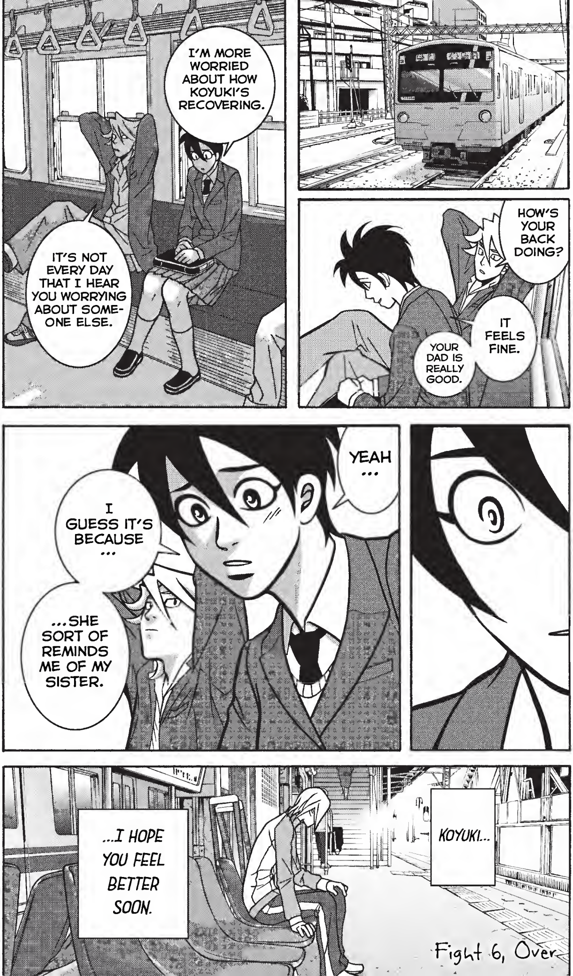

THAT WRAP IS JUST A TEMPORARY SOLUTION, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.
YOU SHOULD GET MY DAD TO TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR LEG.
TH-THANK YOU.
SORRY TO ASK FOR SUCH A SHORT DRIVE, BUT TAKE HER TO THE STATION.
KEEP THE CHANGE.
OH!
YOU GOT IT.
TAKE CARE.
DOOR'S CLOSING.
I'LL COME BACK LATER...
...TO PAY YOU BACK.
ブロロロ…
VROOM

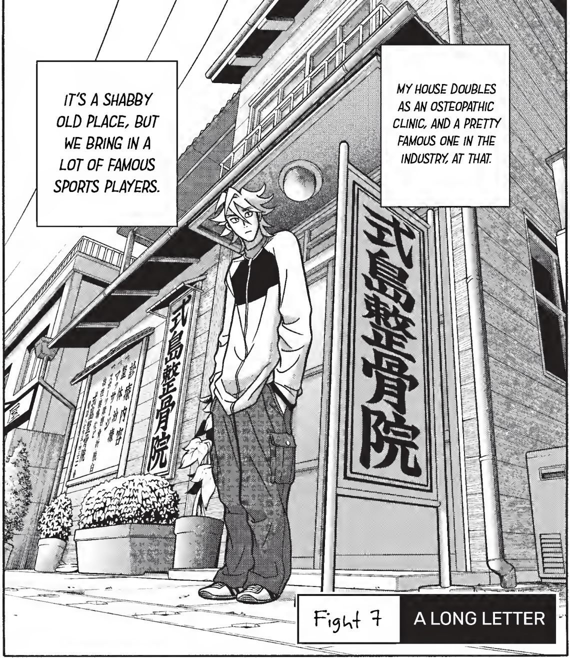

THE DOORS ARE NOW CLOSING.
FSHHH
RATTLE
はあ
PANT
PANT
はあ
NERI!
NERI!
RATTLE
RATTLE
NERI!

Sign: Ekoda Station


ガタン
RATTLE
ゴトン
RATTLE
WELL...
...I DON'T THINK YOU'RE HALF-BAD, CHIYO.
WHEN I SAW THAT...
...I ENVIED CHIYO FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
SHE WAS CLOSER TO NERI THAN I EVER WAS.
HONESTLY...

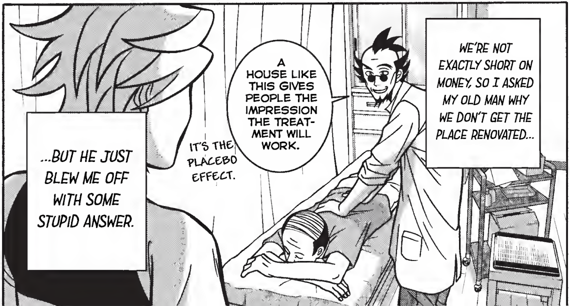

...ALL I WANTED WAS TO BE NERI'S FRIEND...
...BUT THANKS TO MY STUPID JEALOUSY, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOW.
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.

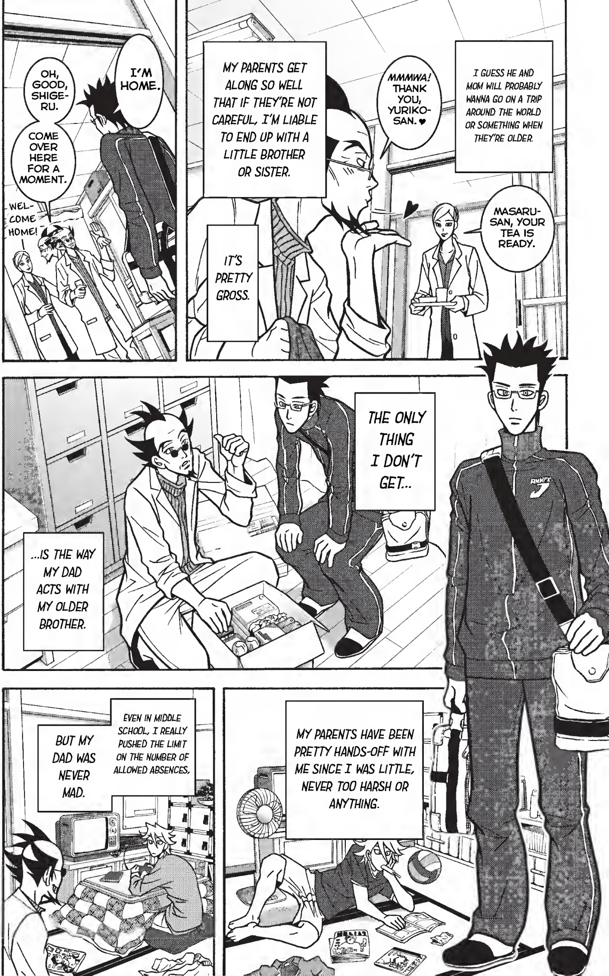

HOW'S YOUR BACK DOING?
IT FEELS FINE.
YOUR DAD IS REALLY GOOD.
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT HOW KOYUKI'S RECOVERING.
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT I HEAR YOU WORRYING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE.
YEAH ...
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE ...
...SHE SORT OF REMINDS ME OF MY SISTER.
KOYUKI...
...I HOPE YOU FEEL BETTER SOON.
Fight 6, Over

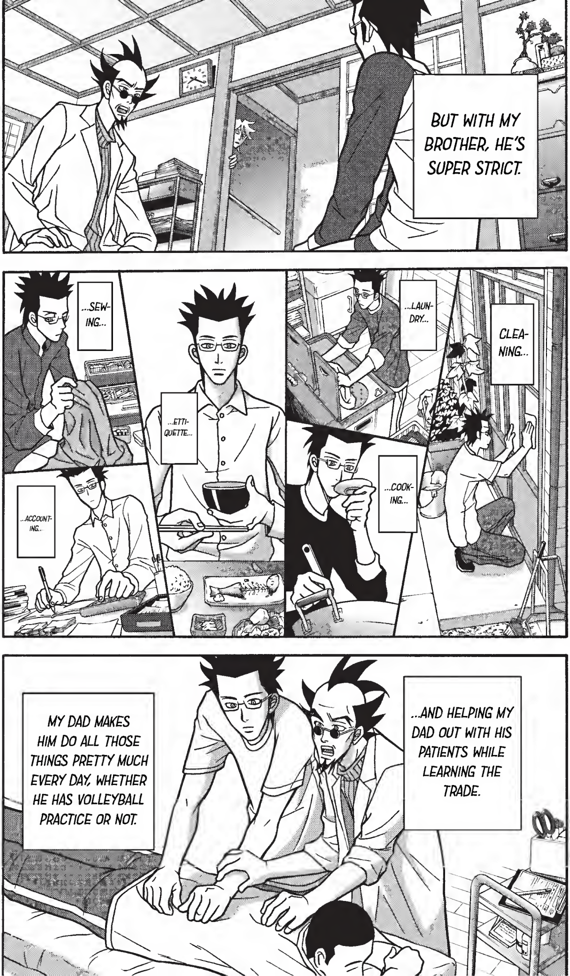

MY HOUSE DOUBLES AS AN OSTEOPATHIC CLINIC, AND A PRETTY FAMOUS ONE IN THE INDUSTRY, AT THAT.
IT'S A SHABBY OLD PLACE, BUT WE BRING IN A LOT OF FAMOUS SPORTS PLAYERS.
式島整骨院
式島整骨院

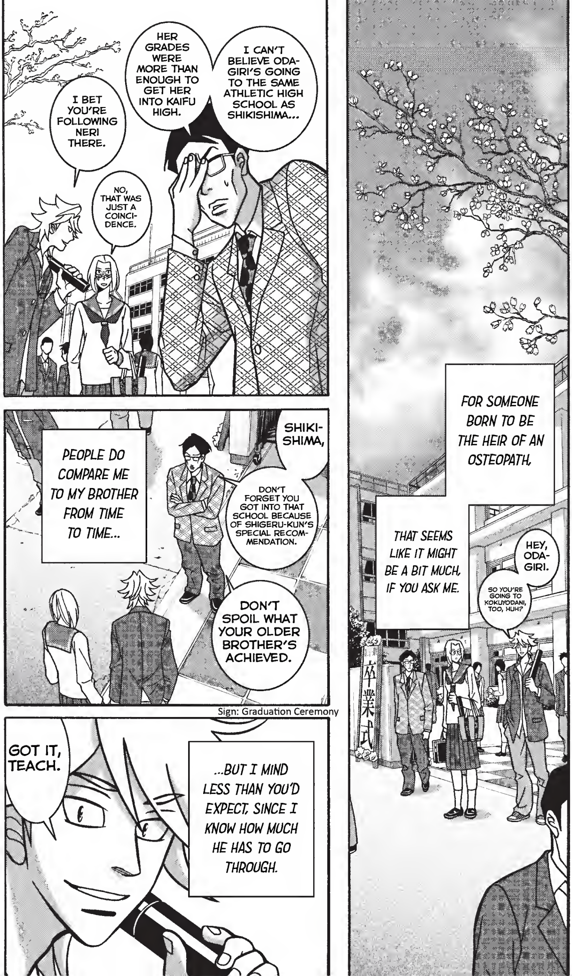
## Fight 7 A LONG LETTER

Sign: Shikishima Osteopathy

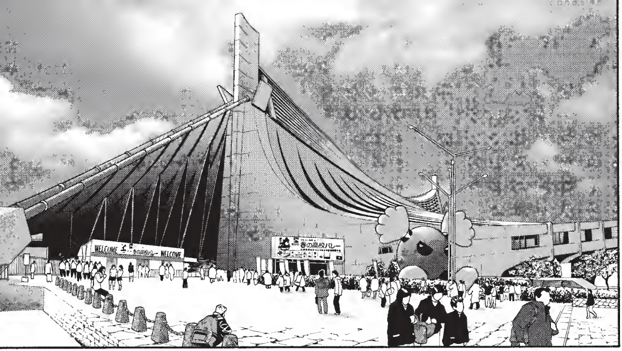

WE'RE NOT EXACTLY SHORT ON MONEY, SO I ASKED MY OLD MAN WHY WE DON'T GET THE PLACE RENOVATED...
A HOUSE LIKE THIS GIVES PEOPLE THE IMPRESSION THE TREATMENT WILL WORK.
IT'S THE PLACEBO EFFECT.
...BUT HE JUST BLEW ME OFF WITH SOME STUPID ANSWER.


MASARU-SAN, YOUR TEA IS READY.
MMMWA! THANK YOU, YURIKO-SAN. ♥
MY PARENTS GET ALONG SO WELL THAT IF THEY'RE NOT CAREFUL, I'M LIABLE TO END UP WITH A LITTLE BROTHER OR SISTER.
IT'S PRETTY GROSS.
I GUESS HE AND MOM WILL PROBABLY WANNA GO ON A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD OR SOMETHING WHEN THEY'RE OLDER.
I'M HOME.
WELCOME HOME!
OH, GOOD, SHIGERU.
COME OVER HERE FOR A MOMENT.
THE ONLY THING I DON'T GET...
...IS THE WAY MY DAD ACTS WITH MY OLDER BROTHER.
ANNEX
MY PARENTS HAVE BEEN PRETTY HANDS-OFF WITH ME SINCE I WAS LITTLE, NEVER TOO HARSH OR ANYTHING.
EVEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I REALLY PUSHED THE LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF ALLOWED ABSENCES,
BUT MY DAD WAS NEVER MAD.

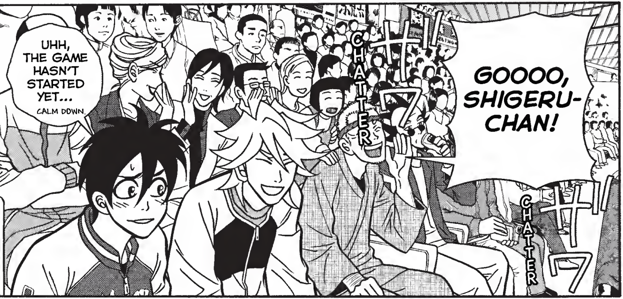

BUT WITH MY BROTHER, HE'S SUPER STRICT.
CLEANING...
...LAUNDRY...
...COOKING...
...ETTIQUETTE...
...SEWING...
...ACCOUNTING...
...AND HELPING MY DAD OUT WITH HIS PATIENTS WHILE LEARNING THE TRADE.
MY DAD MAKES HIM DO ALL THOSE THINGS PRETTY MUCH EVERY DAY, WHETHER HE HAS VOLLEYBALL PRACTICE OR NOT.


FOR SOMEONE BORN TO BE THE HEIR OF AN OSTEOPATH,
THAT SEEMS LIKE IT MIGHT BE A BIT MUCH, IF YOU ASK ME.
HEY, ODA-GIRI.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO KOKUYODANI, TOO, HUH?
卒業式
I CAN'T BELIEVE ODA-GIRI'S GOING TO THE SAME ATHLETIC HIGH SCHOOL AS SHIKISHIMA...
HER GRADES WERE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO GET HER INTO KAIFU HIGH.
I BET YOU'RE FOLLOWING NERI THERE.
NO, THAT WAS JUST A COINCI-DENCE.
SHIKI-SHIMA,
DON'T FORGET YOU GOT INTO THAT SCHOOL BECAUSE OF SHIGERU-KUN'S SPECIAL RECOM-MENDATION.
DON'T SPOIL WHAT YOUR OLDER BROTHER'S ACHIEVED.
PEOPLE DO COMPARE ME TO MY BROTHER FROM TIME TO TIME...
...BUT I MIND LESS THAN YOU'D EXPECT, SINCE I KNOW HOW MUCH HE HAS TO GO THROUGH.
GOT IT, TEACH.

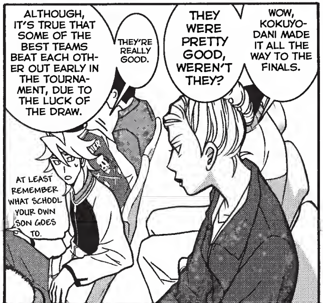
Sign: Graduation Ceremony

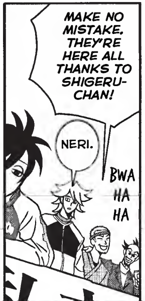


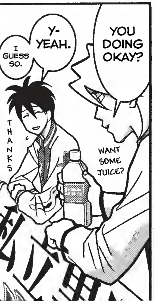
Sign: 37th Spring High-School Volleyball Tournament

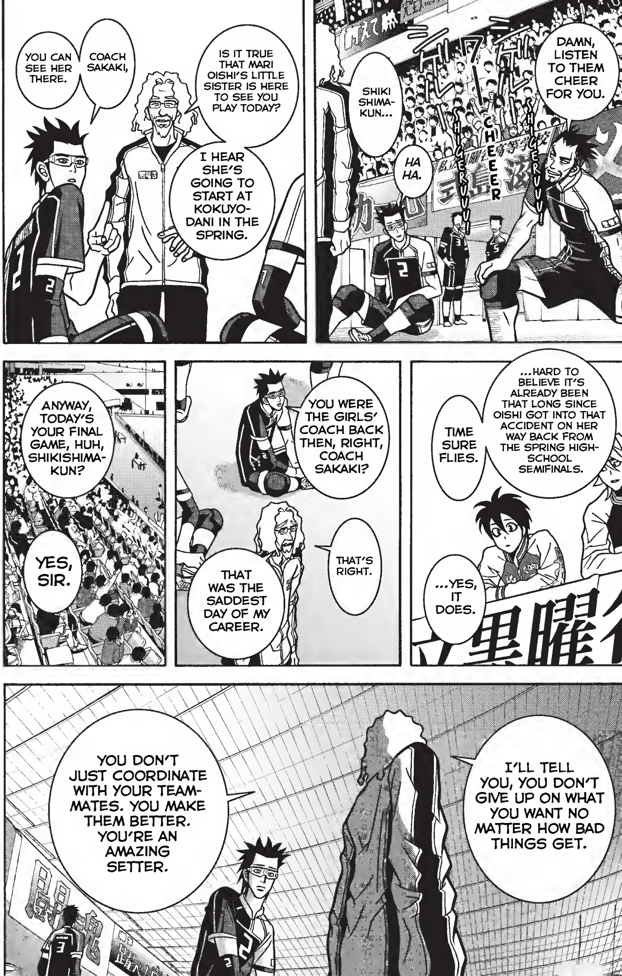

GOOOO, SHIGERU-CHAN!
CHATTER
CHATTER
UHH, THE GAME HASN'T STARTED YET...
CALM DOWN

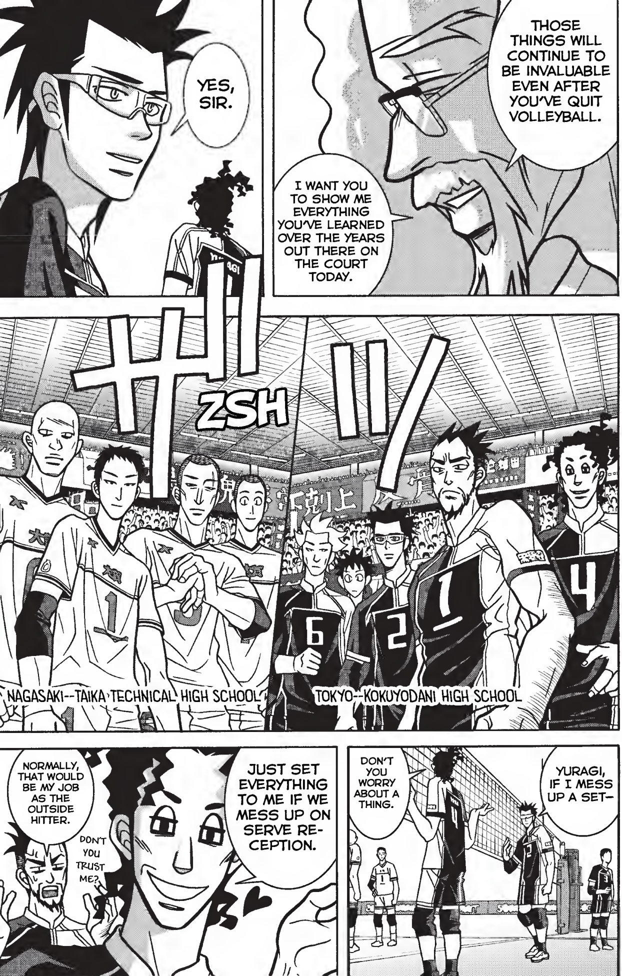
Sign: Kokuyodani

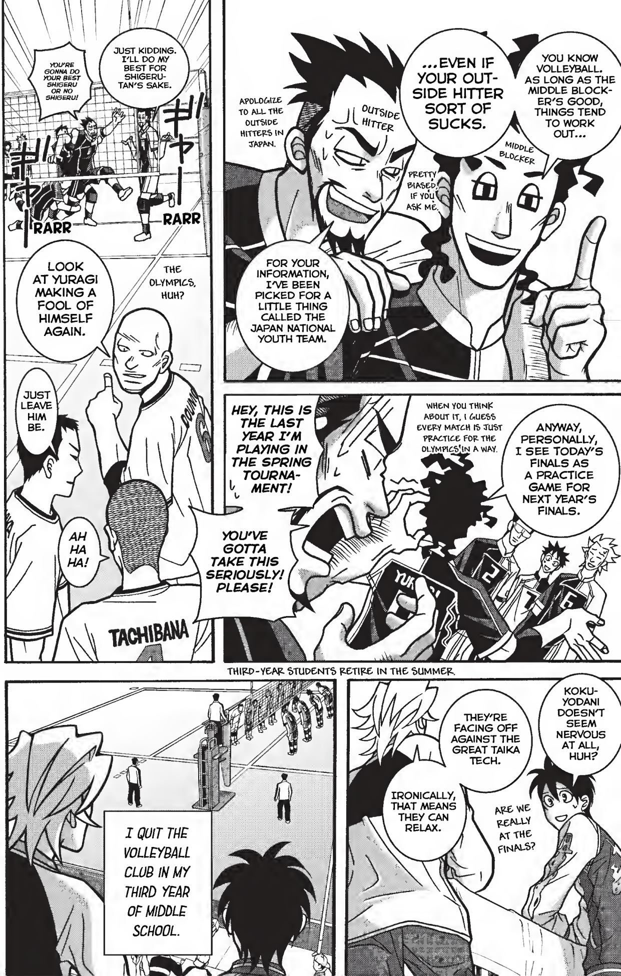

WOW, KOKUYODANI MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE FINALS.
THEY WERE PRETTY GOOD, WEREN'T THEY?
THEY'RE REALLY GOOD.
ALTHOUGH, IT'S TRUE THAT SOME OF THE BEST TEAMS BEAT EACH OTHER OUT EARLY IN THE TOURNAMENT, DUE TO THE LUCK OF THE DRAW.
AT LEAST REMEMBER WHAT SCHOOL YOUR OWN SON GOES TO.

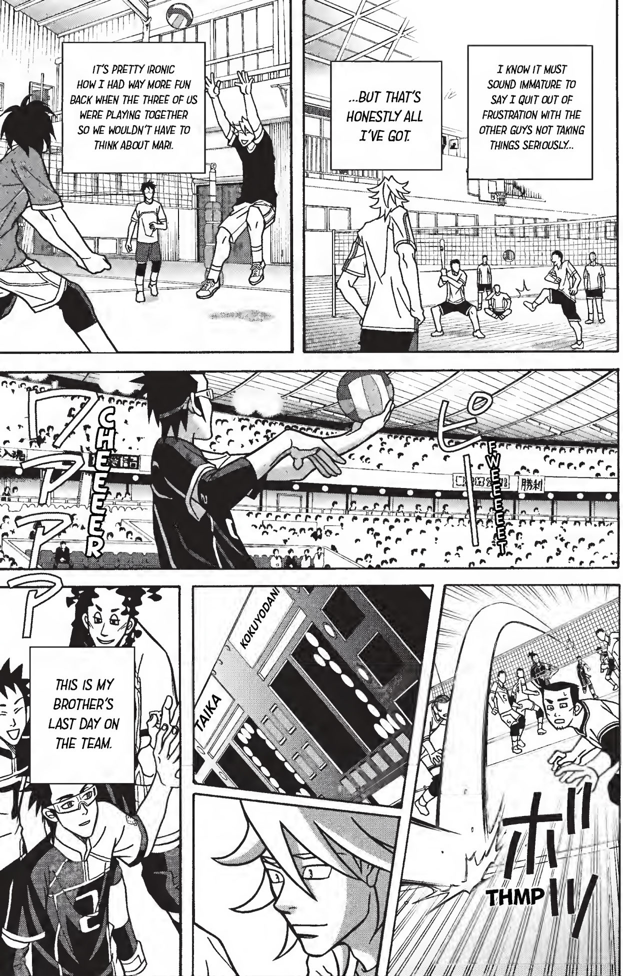

MAKE NO MISTAKE. THEY'RE HERE ALL THANKS TO SHIGERU-CHAN!
BWA HA HA
NERI.

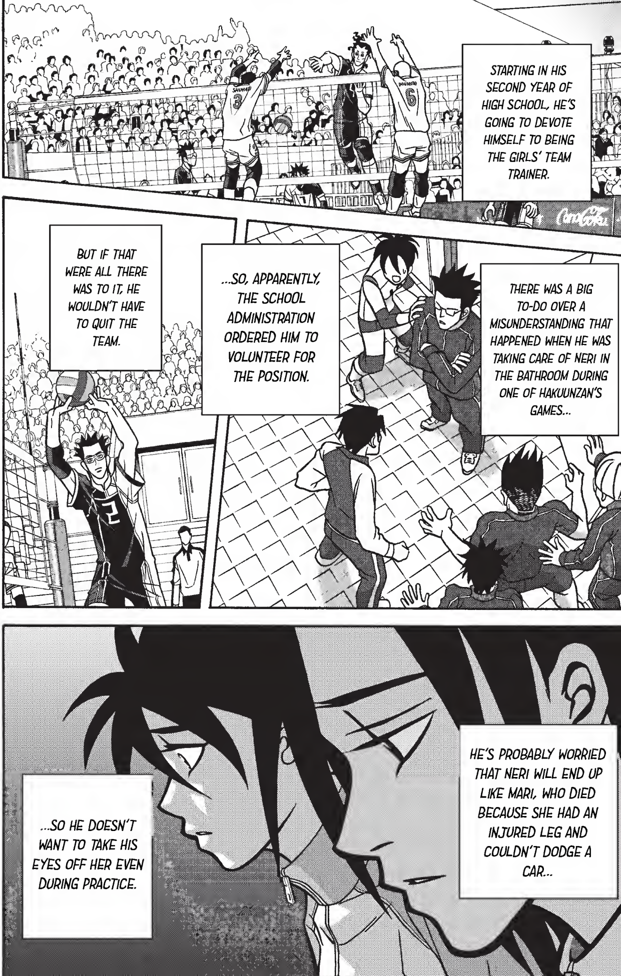

YOU DOING OKAY?
Y-YEAH.
I GUESS SO.
WANT SOME JUICE?
THANKS

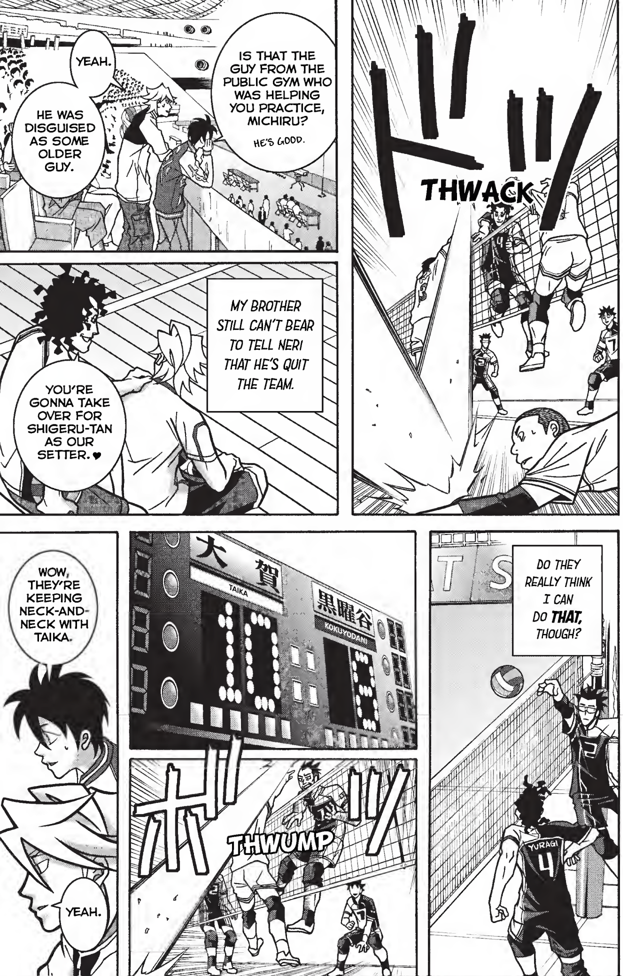

DAMN, LISTEN TO THEM CHEER FOR YOU.
SHIKI SHIMA-KUN...
HA HA.
SHIGERUUU!
CHEEER
SHIGERUUU!
IS IT TRUE THAT MARI OISHI'S LITTLE SISTER IS HERE TO SEE YOU PLAY TODAY?
I HEAR SHE'S GOING TO START AT KOKUYO-DANI IN THE SPRING.
COACH SAKAKI,
YOU CAN SEE HER THERE.
...HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S ALREADY BEEN THAT LONG SINCE OISHI GOT INTO THAT ACCIDENT ON HER WAY BACK FROM THE SPRING HIGH-SCHOOL SEMIFINALS.
TIME SURE FLIES.
...YES, IT DOES.
YOU WERE THE GIRLS' COACH BACK THEN, RIGHT, COACH SAKAKI?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT WAS THE SADDEST DAY OF MY CAREER.
ANYWAY, TODAY'S YOUR FINAL GAME, HUH, SHIKISHIMA-KUN?
YES, SIR.
I'LL TELL YOU, YOU DON'T GIVE UP ON WHAT YOU WANT NO MATTER HOW BAD THINGS GET.
YOU DON'T JUST COORDINATE WITH YOUR TEAM-MATES. YOU MAKE THEM BETTER. YOU'RE AN AMAZING SETTER.

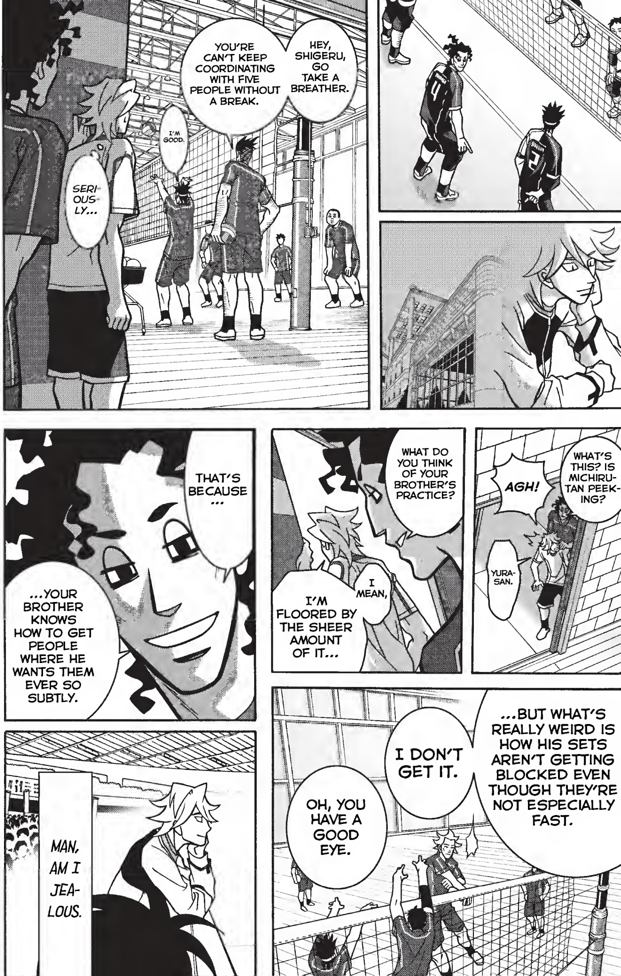

THOSE THINGS WILL CONTINUE TO BE INVALUABLE EVEN AFTER YOU'VE QUIT VOLLEYBALL.
I WANT YOU TO SHOW ME EVERYTHING YOU'VE LEARNED OVER THE YEARS OUT THERE ON THE COURT TODAY.
YES, SIR.
ZSH
TOKYO--KOKUYODANI HIGH SCHOOL
NAGASAKI--TAIKA TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
YURAGI, IF I MESS UP A SET—
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING.
JUST SET EVERYTHING TO ME IF WE MESS UP ON SERVE RECEPTION.
NORMALLY, THAT WOULD BE MY JOB AS THE OUTSIDE HITTER.
DON'T YOU TRUST ME?

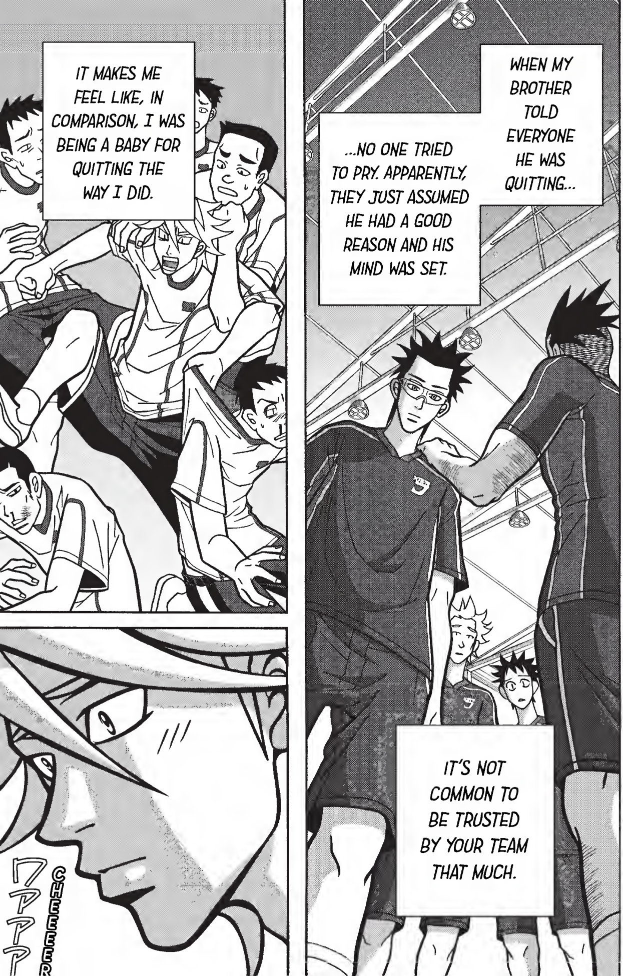

YOU KNOW VOLLEYBALL. AS LONG AS THE MIDDLE BLOCKER'S GOOD, THINGS TEND TO WORK OUT...
MIDDLE BLOCKER
...EVEN IF YOUR OUTSIDE HITTER SORT OF SUCKS.
OUTSIDE HITTER
APOLOGIZE TO ALL THE OUTSIDE HITTERS IN JAPAN.
PRETTY BIASED, IF YOU ASK ME.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I'VE BEEN PICKED FOR A LITTLE THING CALLED THE JAPAN NATIONAL YOUTH TEAM.
JUST KIDDING. I'LL DO MY BEST FOR SHIGERU-TAN'S SAKE.
YOU'RE GONNA DO YOUR BEST SHIGERU OR NO SHIGERU!
ギャー
RARR
ギャー
RARR
ANYWAY, PERSONALLY, I SEE TODAY'S FINALS AS A PRACTICE GAME FOR NEXT YEAR'S FINALS.
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, I GUESS EVERY MATCH IS JUST PRACTICE FOR THE OLYMPICS IN A WAY.
HEY, THIS IS THE LAST YEAR I'M PLAYING IN THE SPRING TOURNAMENT!
YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY! PLEASE!
YURAGI
THE OLYMPICS, HUH?
LOOK AT YURAGI MAKING A FOOL OF HIMSELF AGAIN.
JUST LEAVE HIM BE.
AH HA HA!
TACHIBANA
THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS RETIRE IN THE SUMMER.
KOKUYODANI DOESN'T SEEM NERVOUS AT ALL, HUH?
THEY'RE FACING OFF AGAINST THE GREAT TAIKA TECH.
IRONICALLY, THAT MEANS THEY CAN RELAX.
ARE WE REALLY AT THE FINALS?
I QUIT THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB IN MY THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.

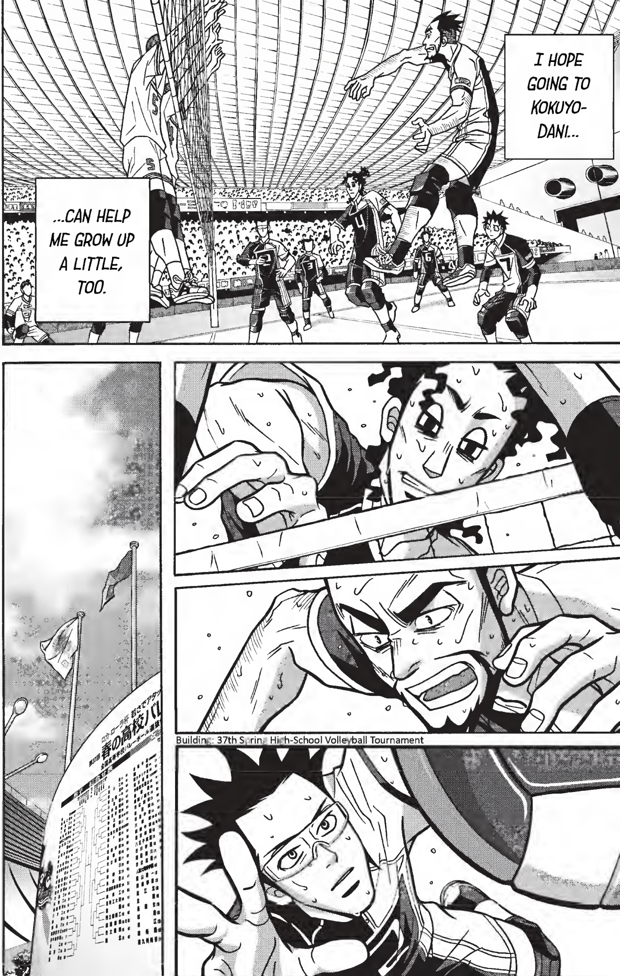

I KNOW IT MUST SOUND IMMATURE TO SAY I QUIT OUT OF FRUSTRATION WITH THE OTHER GUYS NOT TAKING THINGS SERIOUSLY...
...BUT THAT'S HONESTLY ALL I'VE GOT.
IT'S PRETTY IRONIC HOW I HAD WAY MORE FUN BACK WHEN THE THREE OF US WERE PLAYING TOGETHER SO WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT MARI.
ピー
FWEEEEET
勝利
CHEEEEER
ワアアア
THMP
KOKUYODANI
TAIKA
THIS IS MY BROTHER'S LAST DAY ON THE TEAM.

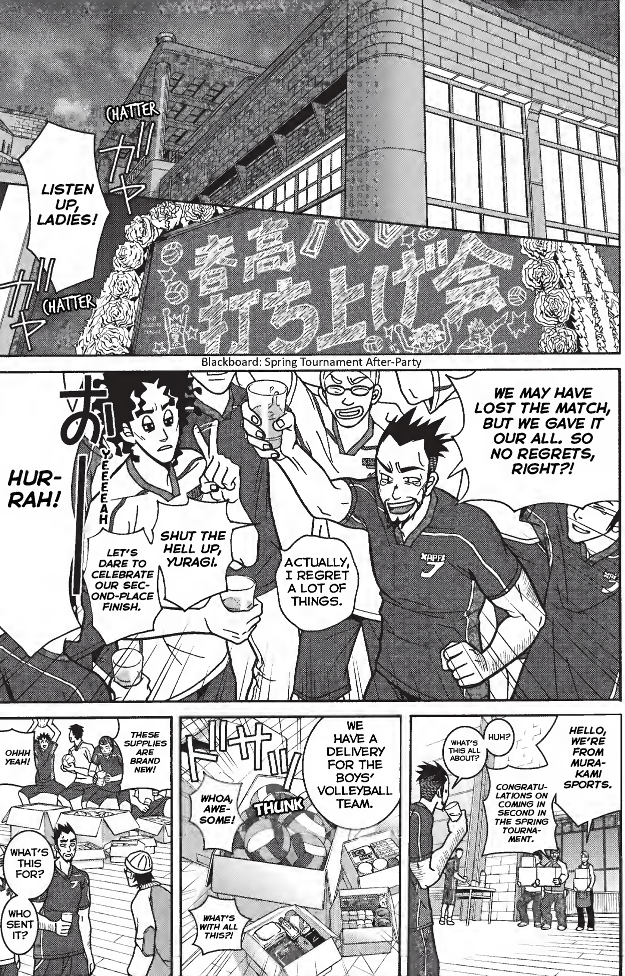

STARTING IN HIS SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, HE'S GOING TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO BEING THE GIRLS' TEAM TRAINER.
SHIMADA
3
DOUMOTO
6
THERE WAS A BIG TO-DO OVER A MISUNDERSTANDING THAT HAPPENED WHEN HE WAS TAKING CARE OF NERI IN THE BATHROOM DURING ONE OF HAKUUNZAN'S GAMES...
...SO, APPARENTLY, THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION ORDERED HIM TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE POSITION.
BUT IF THAT WERE ALL THERE WAS TO IT, HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO QUIT THE TEAM.
2
HE'S PROBABLY WORRIED THAT NERI WILL END UP LIKE MARI, WHO DIED BECAUSE SHE HAD AN INJURED LEG AND COULDN'T DODGE A CAR...
...SO HE DOESN'T WANT TO TAKE HIS EYES OFF HER EVEN DURING PRACTICE.


ドッ
THWACK
IS THAT THE GUY FROM THE PUBLIC GYM WHO WAS HELPING YOU PRACTICE, MICHIRU?
HE'S GOOD.
YEAH.
HE WAS DISGUISED AS SOME OLDER GUY.
MY BROTHER STILL CAN'T BEAR TO TELL NERI THAT HE'S QUIT THE TEAM.
YOU'RE GONNA TAKE OVER FOR SHIGERU-TAN AS OUR SETTER. ♥
DO THEY REALLY THINK I CAN DO THAT, THOUGH?
YURAGI
大賀
TAIKA
黒曜谷
KOKUYODANI
ボッ
THWUMP
WOW, THEY'RE KEEPING NECK-AND-NECK WITH TAIKA.
YEAH.


HEY, SHIGERU, GO TAKE A BREATHER.
YOU'RE CAN'T KEEP COORDINATING WITH FIVE PEOPLE WITHOUT A BREAK.
I'M GOOD.
SERIOUSLY...
WHAT'S THIS? IS MICHIRU-TAN PEEKING?
AGH!
YURA-SAN.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR BROTHER'S PRACTICE?
I MEAN,
I'M FLOORED BY THE SHEER AMOUNT OF IT...
THAT'S BECAUSE...
...YOUR BROTHER KNOWS HOW TO GET PEOPLE WHERE HE WANTS THEM EVER SO SUBTLY.
...BUT WHAT'S REALLY WEIRD IS HOW HIS SETS AREN'T GETTING BLOCKED EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOT ESPECIALLY FAST.
I DON'T GET IT.
OH, YOU HAVE A GOOD EYE.
MAN, AM I JEALOUS.

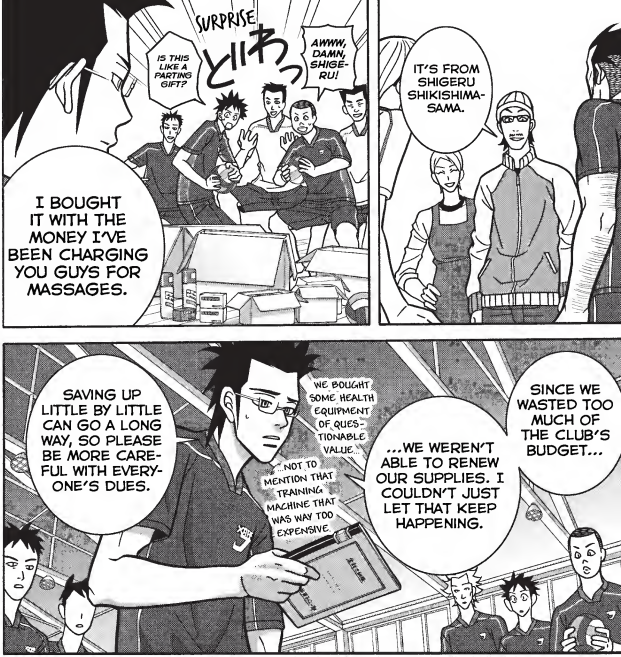

WHEN MY BROTHER TOLD EVERYONE HE WAS QUITTING...
...NO ONE TRIED TO PRY. APPARENTLY, THEY JUST ASSUMED HE HAD A GOOD REASON AND HIS MIND WAS SET.
IT'S NOT COMMON TO BE TRUSTED BY YOUR TEAM THAT MUCH.
IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE, IN COMPARISON, I WAS BEING A BABY FOR QUITTING THE WAY I DID.
ワァァァ
CHEEEER


I HOPE GOING TO KOKUYO-DANI...
...CAN HELP ME GROW UP A LITTLE, TOO.
Building: 37th Spring High-School Volleyball Tournament
若さでアタッ
第37回 春の高校バ
全国高等学校バレーボール選抜

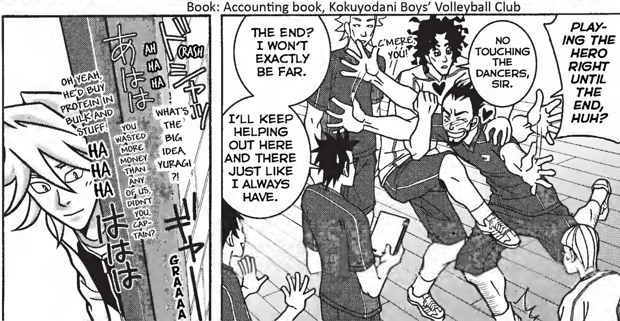

CHATTER
ガヤ
LISTEN UP, LADIES!
ガヤ
CHATTER

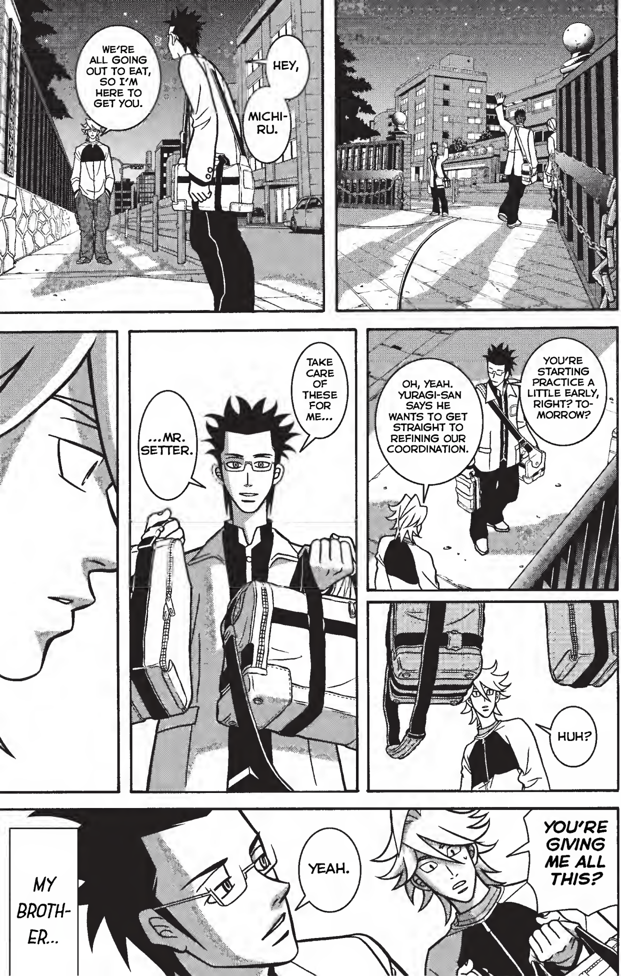
Blackboard: Spring Tournament After-Party

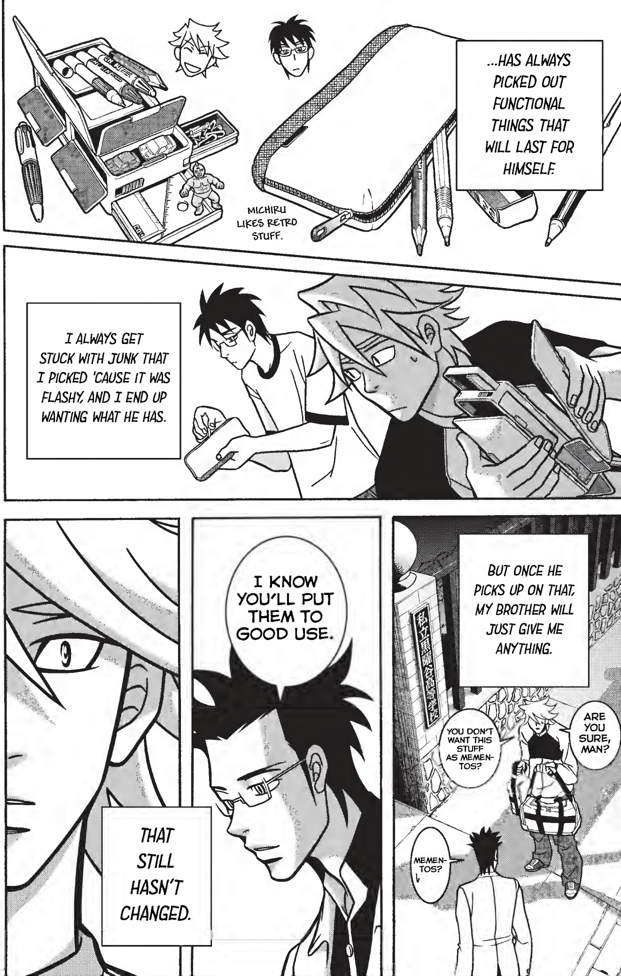
WE MAY HAVE LOST THE MATCH, BUT WE GAVE IT OUR ALL. SO NO REGRETS, RIGHT?!
ACTUALLY, I REGRET A LOT OF THINGS.
SHUT THE HELL UP, YURAGI.
LET'S DARE TO CELEBRATE OUR SECOND-PLACE FINISH.
おー
YEEEEEAH
HURRAH!
HELLO, WE'RE FROM MURAKAMI SPORTS.
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
CONGRATULATIONS ON COMING IN SECOND IN THE SPRING TOURNAMENT.
WE HAVE A DELIVERY FOR THE BOYS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM.
ドサッ
THUNK
WHOA, AWESOME!
WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS?!
THESE SUPPLIES ARE BRAND NEW!
OHHH YEAH!
WHAT'S THIS FOR?
WHO SENT IT?

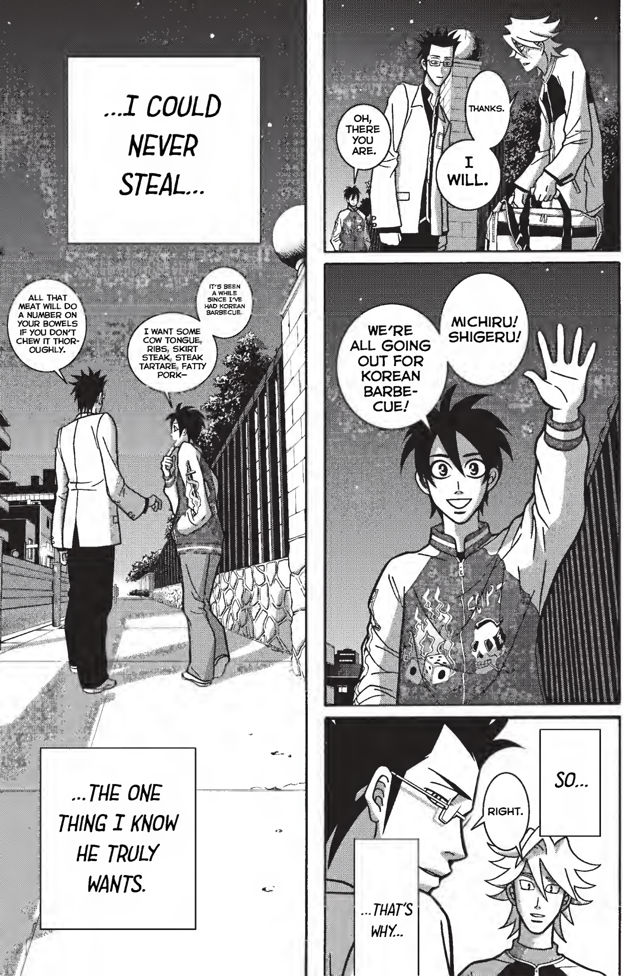

IT'S FROM SHIGERU SHIKISHIMA-SAMA.
SURPRISE
どわっ
AWWW, DAMN, SHIGE-RU!
IS THIS LIKE A PARTING GIFT?
I BOUGHT IT WITH THE MONEY I'VE BEEN CHARGING YOU GUYS FOR MASSAGES.
SINCE WE WASTED TOO MUCH OF THE CLUB'S BUDGET...
...WE WEREN'T ABLE TO RENEW OUR SUPPLIES. I COULDN'T JUST LET THAT KEEP HAPPENING.
WE BOUGHT SOME HEALTH EQUIPMENT OF QUESTIONABLE VALUE...
...NOT TO MENTION THAT TRAINING MACHINE THAT WAS WAY TOO EXPENSIVE.
SAVING UP LITTLE BY LITTLE CAN GO A LONG WAY, SO PLEASE BE MORE CAREFUL WITH EVERYONE'S DUES.

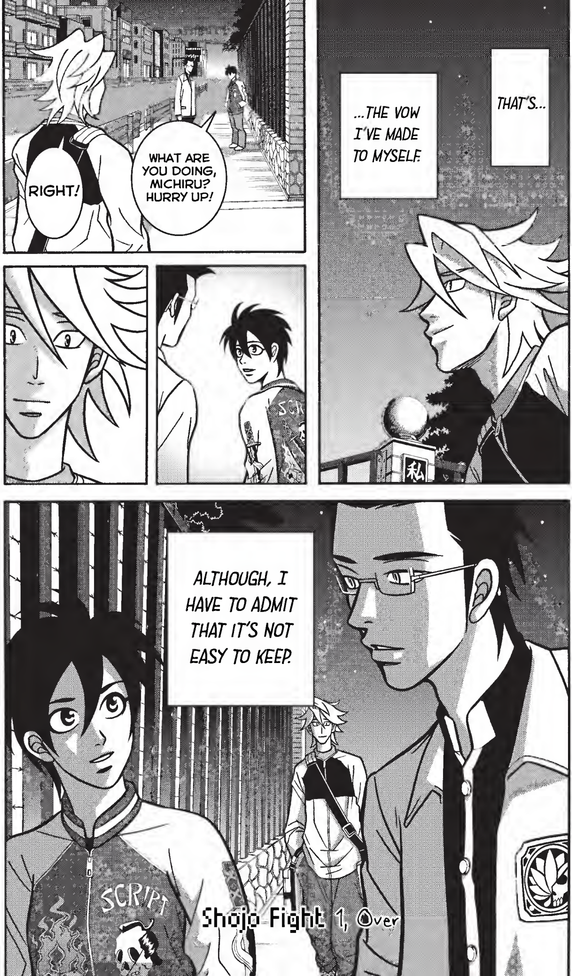
Book: Accounting book, Kokuyodani Boys' Volleyball Club


PLAYING THE HERO RIGHT UNTIL THE END, HUH?
NO TOUCHING THE DANCERS, SIR.
C'MERE, YOU!
THE END? I WON'T EXACTLY BE FAR.
I'LL KEEP HELPING OUT HERE AND THERE JUST LIKE I ALWAYS HAVE.
CRASH
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, YURAGI?!
ギャ
GRAAAA
あはは
AH HA HA
YOU WASTED MORE MONEY THAN ANY OF US, DIDN'T YOU, CAPTAIN?
OH YEAH, HE'D BUY PROTEIN IN BULK AND STUFF.
HA HA HA
はは


HEY,
MICHIRU.
WE'RE ALL GOING OUT TO EAT, SO I'M HERE TO GET YOU.
YOU'RE STARTING PRACTICE A LITTLE EARLY, RIGHT? TOMORROW?
OH, YEAH. YURAGI-SAN SAYS HE WANTS TO GET STRAIGHT TO REFINING OUR COORDINATION.
TAKE CARE OF THESE FOR ME...
...MR. SETTER.
HUH?
YOU'RE GIVING ME ALL THIS?
YEAH.
MY BROTHER...


...HAS ALWAYS PICKED OUT FUNCTIONAL THINGS THAT WILL LAST FOR HIMSELF.
MICHIRU LIKES RETRO STUFF.
I ALWAYS GET STUCK WITH JUNK THAT I PICKED 'CAUSE IT WAS FLASHY, AND I END UP WANTING WHAT HE HAS.
BUT ONCE HE PICKS UP ON THAT, MY BROTHER WILL JUST GIVE ME ANYTHING.
私立黒曜谷高等学校
ARE YOU SURE, MAN?
YOU DON'T WANT THIS STUFF AS MEMENTOS?
MEMENTOS?
I KNOW YOU'LL PUT THEM TO GOOD USE.
THAT STILL HASN'T CHANGED.

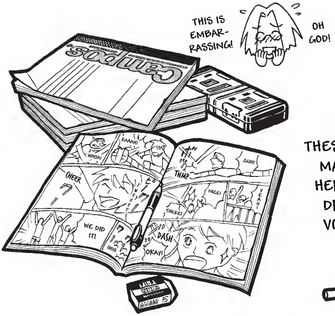

THANKS.
I WILL.
OH, THERE YOU ARE.
MICHIRU! SHIGERU!
WE'RE ALL GOING OUT FOR KOREAN BARBECUE!
SO...
RIGHT.
...THAT'S WHY...
...I COULD NEVER STEAL...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HAD KOREAN BARBECUE.
I WANT SOME COW TONGUE, RIBS, SKIRT STEAK, STEAK TARTARE, FATTY PORK–
ALL THAT MEAT WILL DO A NUMBER ON YOUR BOWELS IF YOU DON'T CHEW IT THOROUGHLY.
...THE ONE THING I KNOW HE TRULY WANTS.


THAT'S...
...THE VOW I'VE MADE TO MYSELF.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MICHIRU? HURRY UP!
RIGHT!
ALTHOUGH, I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT IT'S NOT EASY TO KEEP.
Shojo Fight 1, Over

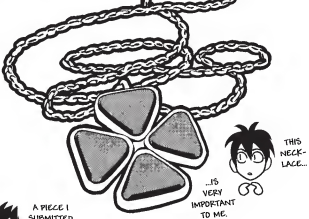
OUT OF PLAY

GIRL'S FIGHT

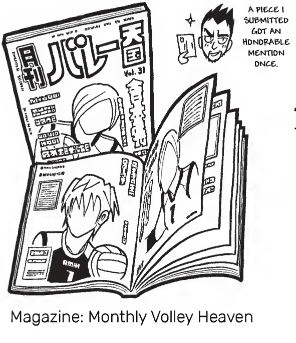
GIRL'S FIGHT


THIS IS EMBARRASSING!
OH GOD!
Campus
RAAAH!
WHOA!
CHEER
GUH!
THMP
NICE!
YEAH!
THERE!
WE DID IT!
DASH
OKAY!
CHEER

THESE ARE THE NOTEBOOKS MANABU USES TO DRAW HER COMICS. SHE MAINLY DRAWS STORIES ABOUT VOLLEYBALL STARRING NERI.

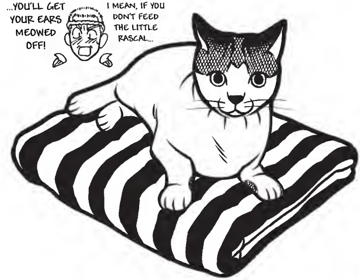

THIS NECKLACE...
...IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.

NERI NEVER TAKES OFF THIS NECKLACE, A KEEPSAKE FROM MARI. IT'S IN THE SHAPE OF A FOUR-LEAF CLOVER, A SIGN OF GOOD LUCK.

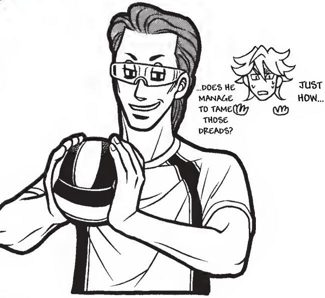

A PIECE I SUBMITTED GOT AN HONORABLE MENTION ONCE.
月刊バレー天国
Vol.31

Magazine: Monthly Volley Heaven

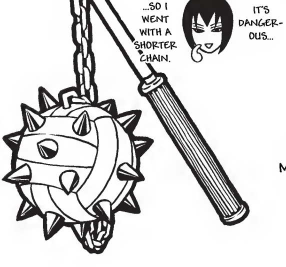
SENGOKU-SEMPAI LOVES THE MAGAZINE MONTHLY VOLLEY HEAVEN. HE'S A FAN OF THE VOLLEYBALL HAIKU COLUMN, AND HE REGULARLY SUBMITS HIS OWN.


I MEAN, IF YOU DON'T FEED THE LITTLE RASCAL...
...YOU'LL GET YOUR EARS MEOWED OFF!

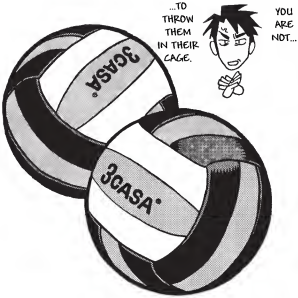
THIS IS NIKO, THE OISHI HOUSEHOLD'S CAT (FOUR YEARS OLD). NIKO WAS A STRAY UNTIL NERI TOOK NIKO IN. NERI'S PAPA DIDN'T LIKE THE IDEA AT FIRST, BUT NOW HE LOVES THIS CAT MORE THAN ANYONE.


JUST HOW...
...DOES HE MANAGE TO TAME THOSE DREADS?

THIS IS YURAGI'S ALTERNATE IDENTITY, WHICH HE USES TO FREQUENT THE ASAHIDANI DANDELIONS VOLLEYBALL CLUB. HE CLAIMS TO BE A REFORMED DELINQUENT WHO NOW WORKS IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY.

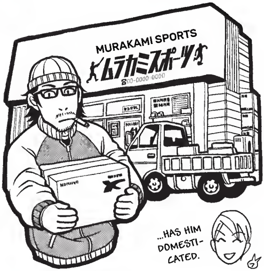

IT'S DANGEROUS...
...SO I WENT WITH A SHORTER CHAIN.

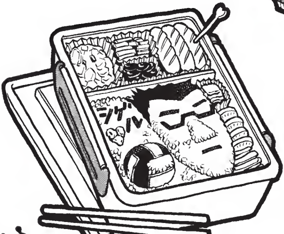
KYOKO LIKED HOW CHIAKI KURIYAMA SWUNG A MORNING STAR AROUND IN A CERTAIN MOVIE, SO SHE MADE A VOLLEYBALL MORNING STAR FOR HERSELF. IT'S COMPLETELY USELESS.


3CASA
3CASA
YOU ARE NOT...
...TO THROW THEM IN THEIR CAGE.

THESE ARE MIKASA VOLLEYBALLS. THEY'RE FAMOUS BALLS, RIGHT UP THERE WITH THOSE FROM MOLTEN. MIKASA BALLS WERE USED IN ALL OF THE FIVB'S TOURNAMENTS UNTIL 2008. NERI'S A FAN OF THEM.

THIS IS THE ASAHIDANI OUTLET OF THE NATIONAL CHAIN MURAKAMI SPORTS. THE MANAGER WAS ADOPTED BY THE FAMILY OF ONE OF MARI'S FORMER TEAMMATES BY MARRYING THEIR DAUGHTER. HE'S AN ALUMNUS OF KOKUYODANI HIMSELF, TOO.

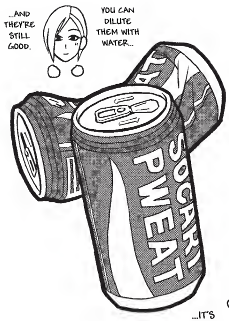

MURAKAMI SPORTS
ムラカミスポーツ
☎00-0000-0000
THE WIFE...
...HAS HIM DOMESTICATED.



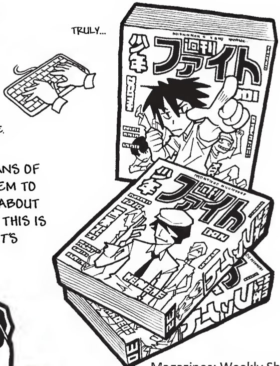
THIS IS YURAGI'S HOMEMADE LUNCH. HE MAKES IT JUST TO ENJOY EATING IT NEXT TO SHIGERU, NOT TO GIVE IT TO HIM. IT'S EVEN RUMORED TO BE A LITTLE BETTER THAN A CLASSIC SHOKADO BENTO.

I GET UP EARLY TO MAKE IT.

Bento: Shigure

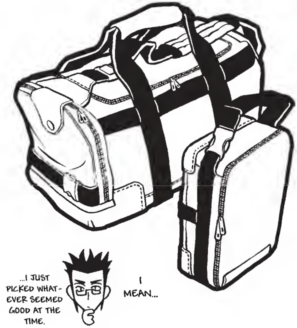

YOU CAN DILUTE THEM WITH WATER...
...AND THEY'RE STILL GOOD.
SOCARI PWEAT

KOYUKI'S IN THE HABIT OF DRINKING THESE SPORTS DRINKS. THE ONLY PLACE TO FIND THEM AT HAKUUNZAN MIDDLE SCHOOL IS IN THE VENDING MACHINE NEXT TO THE GYM, SO SHE LIKES TO SNEAK OUT OF THE DORMS AT NIGHT TO BUY THEM.


TRULY...
...IT'S MY ONE PLEASURE.
少年 ファイト

MANABU AND AKIRA ARE BOTH FANS OF WEEKLY SHONEN FIGHT. THEY SEEM TO PARTICULARLY ENJOY THE COMIC ABOUT VOLLEYBALL BY MACHIZO SAKAIDA. THIS IS PROBABLY WHERE SHOJO FIGHT'S TITLE COMES FROM, TOO.

Magazines: Weekly Shonen Fight


I MEAN...
...I JUST PICKED WHATEVER SEEMED GOOD AT THE TIME.

THESE ARE SHIGERU'S BAGS FOR HIS SPORTS GEAR AND SHOES. THEY'RE DURABLE, HIGH-QUALITY GOODS THAT WILL LAST AND ARE VERY LIGHT, TO BOOT. THEY'VE NOW BEEN PASSED DOWN TO MICHIRU.

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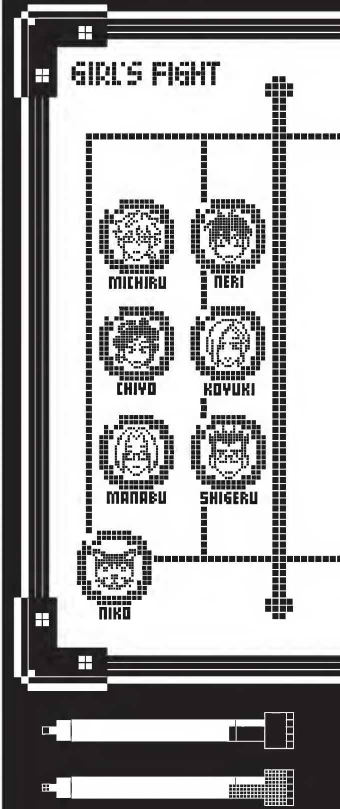
**SAKI UCHIDA**

**RUI TAZAWA**

AND **YOU!**


GIRL'S FIGHT
MICHIRU
NERI
CHIYO
KOYUKI
MANABU
SHIGERU
NIKO

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KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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